

## Prague pledge to defend socialism in Poland

The Eastern block will not remain impassive if any threat develops to Poland's socialist system, Dr Gustav Husak, the Czechoslovak leader, said at the Prague party congress yesterday. He forcibly restated the "Brezhnev doctrine", used to justify the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, that protection of socialism concerned all socialist states.

## Dr Husak reaffirms Brezhnev doctrine

Prague, April 6.—Dr Gustav Husak, leader of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, opened the party congress today with a warning that the Soviet bloc would not remain impassive while the communist system in neighbouring Poland was threatened.

With the presence of President Leonid Brezhnev of the Soviet Union adding weight to his words, Dr Husak restated the Brezhnev doctrine of limited sovereignty which was used to justify the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 which ended the short-lived liberalization of the "Prague spring".

President Brezhnev, who arrived unexpectedly yesterday at the head of the Soviet delegation, was met with prolonged applause as he entered the congress hall.

Acknowledging that Czechoslovaks were following events across the border with disquiet, Dr Husak said: "The fact that the political crisis in Poland is still continuing and intensifying fills us all the more with apprehension."

He said a recent Polish Central Committee meeting had emphasized that anti-socialist and counter-revolutionary forces (the phrase used to condemn the Prague spring) were causing anxiety and threatening the foundations of socialism.

Dr Husak said that communist states would defend their community if anyone tried to use events in Poland to stir up trouble.

He echoed the "Brezhnev doctrine" by saying: "All who are attempting to misuse the events in Poland for instigating anti-socialist campaigns must be reminded of our clear standpoint that the protection of the socialist system is not

only the concern of each socialist state but also the joint concern of the states of the socialist community, which are determined to defend their interests and the socialist achievements of their people."

In a long passage on trade unions important in view of developments in Poland, Dr Husak said their work needed a sensitive and differentiated approach to people.

Dutch protest: The small Dutch Communist Party has recalled its delegate to the Prague congress in protest at Dr Husak's remarks about Poland (Reuter reports from Amsterdam). A spokesman said the Dutch party "and other Communist parties abroad" resented comparisons between the situation in Poland and those in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and Hungary in 1956.

Confidence lost: Since the plenary session of the Polish Central Committee, Moscow and its East European allies seem to have lost Poland in the Polish leadership's handling of the situation (Dessa Trevisan writes from Belgrade).

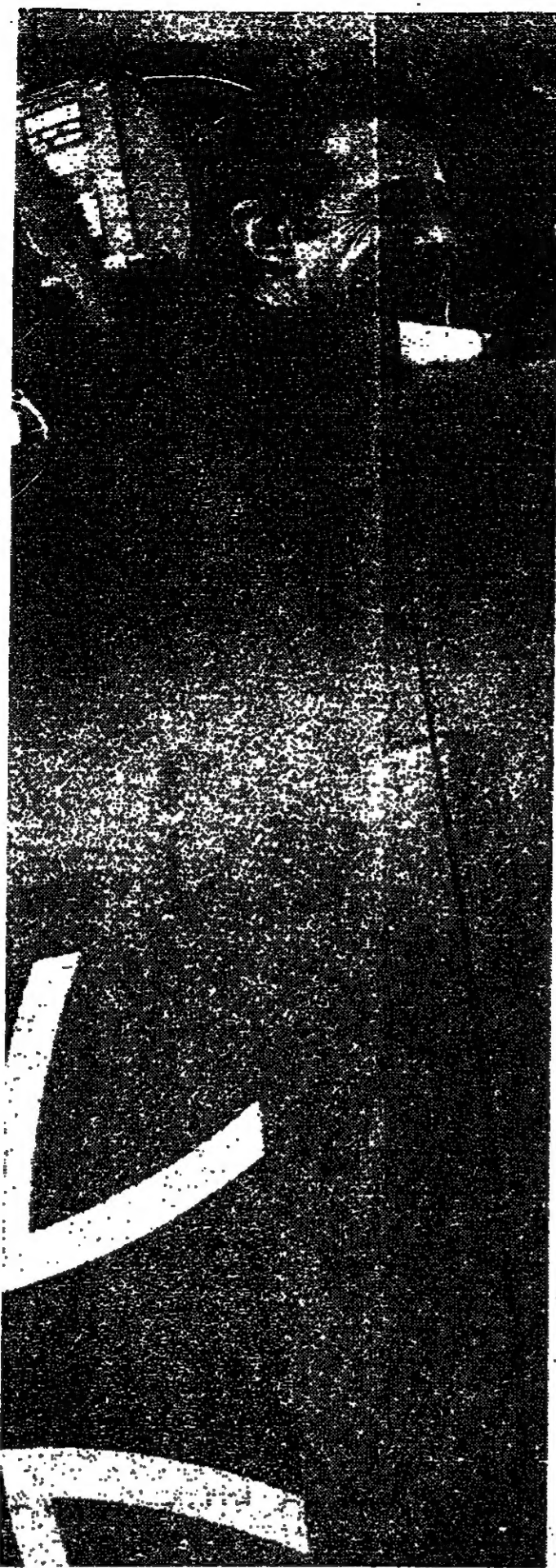
Even Romania is showing no understanding for the Polish case, though it still professes to be opposed to intervention.

But now it expects the Polish authorities to use their own repressive measures, for if Poland was successful in carrying out democratization farther afield it would set an attractive example throughout the communist world.

Hungary, of all the Warsaw Pact countries, has shown some restraint and until recently it took a sympathetic attitude. Lately, however, there have been critical undertones concerning the way the Polish leadership is making concessions.

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Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Defence Secretary, in the cockpit of a Tornado at RAF Cottesmore yesterday.

Report, page 6

## Budget tax rise lifts wholesale prices

By David Blake  
Economics Editor

Budget tax increases helped to push up factory gate prices by 1.1 per cent in March. Coupled with a sharp increase in the price which manufacturers had to pay for their raw materials and fuel—the result of a drop in the value of the pound—the figures produced an upward trend in the rate of wholesale price inflation over the past six months.

But officials at the Department of Industry hope that the setback is temporary.

The Department of Trade has issued figures which suggest that hire purchase and other credit business rose slightly in February from its low January level. The figures confirm that retail sales in February fell back slightly from the January level but were higher than in any month of 1980.

Roughly three-quarters of the increase in output prices charged by manufacturers in March was accounted for by higher duties on tobacco and drink. These Excise duties are included in wholesale prices and the March figures reflect only part of the full impact of Sir Geoffrey Howe's actions, since the higher duties did not take effect until after his Budget on March 10.

The increase in value-added tax will be directly reflected in retail prices but will not show up in wholesale prices.

The underlying rate of increase in output prices over the past six months went up to an annual rate of 10.5 per cent. This is the first time that the underlying rate of wholesale inflation has been in double figures since September last year. The underlying rate last December was at 5.9 per cent.

Because the underlying rate moves more slowly in response to swings in any month, the annual rate in March fell again to 10.1 per cent.

The underlying rate of increase of input prices, which measure what industry has to pay for the goods it uses, rose for the fifth successive month in March to reach an annual rate of 15.3 per cent.

## S Africa in 'gems deal' with Russia

By Michael Prest

De Beers, the South African diamond producer, and the Soviet Union had a top secret contract under which De Beers sold most of Russia's diamond output, it was alleged last night. This agreement had broken down and a new one was said to have been under discussion.

The allegation, made in *Panorama*, the BBC television programme, was part of an investigation into what were claimed to be close commercial links on gold, platinum and diamonds between South Africa and the Soviet Union.

A senior De Beers spokesman, however, has denied the existence of any such agreement. He said in London last night: "If there is an agreement I would certainly know about it."

The BBC programme claimed that meetings had taken place between top Soviet foreign trade officials and senior executives of De Beers and Anglo American, one of the world's biggest gold and platinum producers, including Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of the two companies. The sighting in Moscow last year of Mr Gordon Woodell, an executive director of Anglo American, was also stressed.

Mr Vladimir Bykov, the Deputy Soviet Ambassador in London, denied there were any links between his country and South Africa.

## Race plea helped stop Bristol riot retrial

The Director of Public Prosecutions said that an important factor in his decision not to pursue charges against the remaining four defendants in the Bristol riot trial was advice he had received from the Chief Constable of Somerset and Avon concerning the promotion of racial harmony in Bristol.

Mr Brian Weigh, the Chief Constable, said that "the need is to look forward with confidence, and not to dwell on the past". At the recent trial eight people were acquitted of riotous assembly and the jury failed to reach agreement on four defendants.

## Conflict at disco inferno inquiry

The judicial inquiry into the Stardust discotheque blaze in Dublin, which killed 48 young people, heard of conflicting evidence over whether the club's emergency exit doors were locked. Counsel for the four-man tribunal said the fire on St Valentine's night this year, in which 150 people were injured, was an inferno. Furniture materials may have contributed to the deaths.

## Rivals challenge Trident TV

A rival group is challenging Trident Television's attempt to change the ownership of Yorkshire Television, its present subsidiary, to meet the demands of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which meets on Thursday. The IBA will discuss two possible structures for the new group, one formulated by Trident and the other by the rivals, whose identity remains secret.

## Israeli warning over Lebanon

As fighting between the Arab peace-keeping forces and right wing militias in Beirut and the Christian town of Zahle entered its sixth day, the chances of foreign intervention in Lebanon increased, Israeli aircraft flew over Beirut apparently in warning of possible intervention if fighting continues.

## Census collection nearly over

The vast operation of collecting completed census forms from Britain's 20 million households is nearly over, and the complex work of translating the replies into statistical information will soon begin.

Home News 2-4  
Overseas News 6-7  
Appointments 20  
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Book review 15  
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Business 16-21  
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## Drive to oust left on Labour NEC

Right-wing union leaders are planning to overturn the left majority on the Labour Party's National Executive Committee by mobilizing the moderate vote at the party conference in October. The union leaders are to meet in secret before Easter.

## Navy badly hit by strike, unions say

Civil Service union leaders claim industrial action is causing major disruption to intelligence gathering and to the operations of the Navy. Unions have called out 200 staff in key computer and supply areas which they say restrict the Navy servicing warships and submarines.

## Drawing in sale suspected fake

A drawing to be offered for sale today by Christie's and catalogued as a work of the Florentine Renaissance, with an estimated value of £10,000 to £15,000, is suspected of being a fake by leading dealers and some experts.

North Sea disaster: Three oil rigs are to be modified after the Keilland capsize.

Mountbatten meeting: Mrs Thatcher makes no comment on alleged coup plot.

Milk price war: Sainsbury's cut 2p off a pint.

Cape Canaveral: Countdown space shuttle launching begins.

Europe: Unbalanced relations between the United States and Europe.

Classified advertisements: Personal, page 24; Appointments, 11, 22; Legal appointments, 22; Sale rooms and antiques, 22.

Ultimatum, page 16  
Dr Alice Evans, the Hon Lady Fox, the Rev E. N. Porter, Goff Arts, page 15  
John Russell Taylor reviews Calder mobiles and other new shows in London; Hilary Finch talks to John Tomlinson, who since Bluebird in the Barrow centenary bill at the Coliseum tonight.  
Business News, pages 16-21  
Stock Markets: Equities retreated as fears over Poland and the start of the new financial year resulted in heavy selling. The FT index fell 6.1 to 533.5.  
Business features: Patrick Minford argues that the 354 economist critics of the Government are wrong.

## US is 'seriously concerned' by Soviet threat

From David Cross  
Washington, April 6

The United States was seriously concerned about the retreating military posture adopted by the Soviet Union towards Poland, a State Department spokesman said today.

But Washington did not believe Soviet intervention was likely "in the immediate future". Asked what he meant by "immediate", the spokesman responded: "Look down the road for a few days."

The spokesman also disclosed that the Administration was assessing whether increased military exercises by the Warsaw Pact nations in and around Poland involved more than 25,000 men. If they did, a Soviet Union would be in breach of the 1955 Helsinki agreement on East-West relations, which require notification of large-scale military manoeuvres.

Notwithstanding the legal restraints of the Helsinki

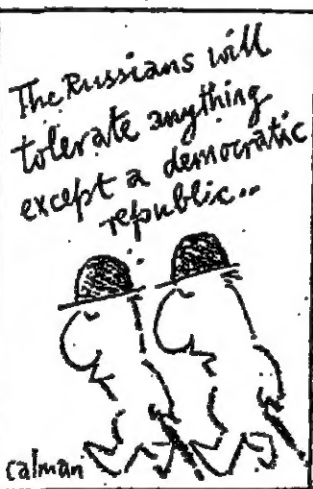
treaty, the spokesman said: "It certainly would have helped to reduce tensions" if the Soviet Union had provided notification of the manoeuvres to Washington.

"Most important", he added, "the Soviets are acting contrary to the final Act principles which prohibit the threat or use of force and intervention in the internal affairs of other countries."

In a further indication of Washington's deep concern, President Reagan has sent a toughly-phrased letter to President Brezhnev, the Russian leader.

The letter, which was sent on Friday after a week of intensified military activities by Warsaw Pact forces in and around Poland, was said to have warned Moscow that any Soviet intervention would disrupt all future arms negotiations talk "totally".

However, according to well-informed officials here, the letter did not spell out exactly how the United States and its



allies intended to retaliate in the event of a Russian invasion. British action: Mrs Margaret Thatcher, in a letter sent to President Brezhnev before he left for Prague, said yesterday to have reemphasized the

European Community's concern that the Polish people be left to decide their own affairs (Our Political Editor writes).

Downing Street declined to publish the text of the letter but informed accounts suggested that it had been more of a restatement of Britain's position regarding Mr Brezhnev's proposals on East-West relations rather than a new warning to the Soviet Union to keep its hands off Poland.

It appeared that the British Government had been taken by surprise by the Warsaw Pact talks. Mrs Thatcher's remarks about Poland's role in the brief passage at the end of the letter, although it was said that Poland was in the forefront of her concern.

Sterling falls: Mounting fears about the Polish situation sent sterling crashing on the foreign exchange markets, falling 31 cents to close at \$2.169, its lowest level for almost a year. (The pound plunges, page 17.)

Hardiness: Only hope, page 6  
President's health, page 6

## Whitehall housekeeping attacked by audit chief

Peter Hennessy

biting criticism of Whitehall's failure to maintain adequate standards of good housekeeping in its activities or acceptable stewardship of £60,000m of public money is a memorandum published today by Sir Douglas Henshaw, Comptroller and Auditor General. Parliament's watchdog spending and efficiency.

In his report to the Commons Select Committee of Public Accounts on Internal Audit in the Central Government, Sir Douglas said that its overall standard was substantially lower than it should be, with an almost universal absence of adequate capability to audit prior-based systems.

Senior civil servants were criticized for failing to appreciate the potential benefits of efficient audit system. Sir Douglas directed his remarks at a number of departments but failed to name the guilty or innocent.

Secretary to the Civil Service Department, accepted the main thrust of Sir Douglas's criticisms in their appearance yesterday before the public accounts committee.

Sir Anthony would not agree, however, that top civil servants in all departments had neglected internal audit and cited the Ministry of Defence as an example.

Sir Douglas found a "general lack of professionalism" among civil servants working on internal audit. Sir John told the committee that 47 qualified accountants worked on the subject in 11 departments; 20 more departments had no accountants engaged on internal audit.

Sir Douglas said that most main accounting systems in government were now computer-based and a capability for undertaking computer audit was essential. Sir John said the Civil Service possessed six officials qualified in both accountancy and computing.

The Treasury and Civil Service Department witnesses told the committee they welcomed the report.

Sir Douglas proposed a number of remedies for the deficiencies he had uncovered. The most important was a "general recognition of the potential role of internal audit and new staffing arrangements" for the unit. Progress on those would clear the way for general improvements.

## £200m scheme saves BR's 'iron cathedral'

By David Hewson

British Rail will announce today that it intends to proceed with the £200m redevelopment of Liverpool Street and Broad Street stations in one of the largest property schemes in London in recent years.

The plan provides for the Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street's western train shed and the adjoining southern nave and transept to be preserved.

When BR announced its plans, including demolition of the hotel in 1975, they produced a spirited correspondence in *The Times* in which Sir John Benjamin and others, opposed the redevelopment. In letter the opponents described Liverpool Street's train sheds as "a cast-iron cathedral of the railway age", and praised Broad Street's "French Renaissance twin mansard pavilions, spacious booking hall, and elegant Florentine stairway".

Passengers using Liverpool Street, which serves East Anglia, Essex, and suburban areas east of London, have been less impressed than the poet Laureate.

Last year the Transport Users' Consultative Committee for London was full of praise for the station's Europa Bistro but described the terminus itself as "somewhat decrepit". BR's property board appears to have solved tax problems which have threatened to sink the development for the past two years.

The scheme, which will take eight to 10 years to complete, involves the construction of a new station, 1.2 million sq ft of



Liverpool Street's 'cast-iron cathedral of the railway age'.

offices, 30,000 sq ft of shops, and track improvements as far as Bethnal Green.

The property board still has to return to the City of London Corporation and Hackney Borough Council for detailed planning consent for the scheme, but this is not expected to create any difficulties.

Outline planning permission was only granted after a lengthy public inquiry and considerable modification of BR's initial plans.

BR first formulated its plans for redeveloping Liverpool Street in the early 1970s and received outline planning permission for the scheme two years ago. But it came close to cancelling the project when

it was learnt that development land tax could change the scheme from a highly profitable one for BR into a loss.

Initially it was thought that the tax would apply only to the commercial office and shops part of the development.

Station and track improvement costs, which amount for about half the £200m, would not have been offset against the tax.

However, recent discussions with the Treasury and Inland Revenue have led BR to believe that the commercial and railway sides of the development will be treated as an integral scheme.

It is understood that BR approached the Treasury and asked for some form of exemption from development land tax to enable the scheme to go ahead profitably. The Treasury pointed out a clause in last year's Finance Act which allowed BR to apply to the Inland Revenue for an advance assessment of how much tax it would be liable to pay on the whole development.

This means that the profit liable for tax will be greatly reduced by the inclusion of the railway operation costs. BR had said earlier that the inclusion of the railway works in the final equation could make the difference between 40 per cent of the final value being liable for tax and 90 per cent.

## Playwright Pope goes into the film business

From Peter Nichols  
Rome, April 6

The Pope is to go into films, or at least a film is to be made of one of his plays. It has been announced here. The play is entitled *The Jewellers Shop* and is a study of marriage.

It was written by the Pope 21 years ago, when he was auxiliary Bishop in Krakow. He published it under the pseudonym of Andrezej Jawien and the production company, Interlinea Cinematografica, insisted today that they chose to film it because of its "great artistic and human value".

No doubt it helped that the play's author is the best-known Pope in modern times.

The play was received respectfully here when it was broadcast on Rome's Third Programme and the notices for a BBC version were not at all bad.

A dramatic reading of the script was recently given in Italian in the presence of the august author himself and he was seen to applaud warmly; not the play, it was pointed out at the time, but the efforts of the actors.

The Pope was a respected actor before he decided to give his life to the priesthood.

Students of his technique can study it at leisure with the now numerous gramophone records issued of him singing or celebrating Mass. One tape and disc is simply entitled "Pope Live At Pompeii!"

And a film is also being made of his life. One begins to sympathize with the actor who complains in press interviews what a problem it is to impersonate the Pope.

From actor to subject of film biography, the Pope now enters the field of writers whose work has been adapted for the cinema.

The play is a study of three marriages. One is a successful marriage, another is founder ing and the third is difficult but not without hope.

No less a man of the theatre than Jean Louis Barrault in his preface to the French edition of the play said that it "emanates a profound poetry". The film version will be made both for the cinema and television.

The Pope, has, of course, also published volumes of verse which are fundamentally an expression of his philosophical views on human dignity.

Today the Pope did what might be called a certain touting up behind the scenes by receiving the 23 delegates of the staff association at Vatican City which represents 1,500 lay employees of the Pope's personal realm.

They have for some months been calling for better pay and conditions. Some of them had been disappointed with the Pope's apparent unconcern about their difficulties.

Apart from acting and writing, this unusually experienced Pope has also been a worker, after all.

## New Premier

Brussels, April 6.—King Baudouin today appointed Mr Mark Eyskens as the Finance Minister, Belgium's Prime Minister. Mr Eyskens seems increasingly likely to be able to reform a Christian Democrat and Socialist coalition Government.

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# Unions aim to loosen grip of Labour left

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Right-wing union leaders aiming to bring Mr Wedgwood Benn's attempt to gain the deputy leadership of the Labour Party have widened their political campaign to encompass the party's national executive committee.

The "new right" caucus in the labour movement is planning to overturn the left majority on the NEC by mobilizing the moderate vote in an unprecedented manner at the October party conference.

Union leaders who attended the Charing Cross hotel talks that established the anti-militant coalition after the Wembley special conference are to meet again before Easter for fresh strategy talks.

The agenda has been extended to take in an all-out effort to dislodge left-wingers from their 17 to 12 majority on the national executive. "That is what it is all about," one of the moderate union leaders said last night.

After the publicity surrounding the founding meeting of the caucus, some general secretaries came in for strong criticism in their unions, so the date and place of the next round of talks is being kept secret. But it is reliably said to be within the next 10 days.

Chief targets of the proposed caucus are Miss Joan Maynard, MP, Mrs Renée Short, Mr Douglas Hoyle, of the Association of Scientific Technical and Managerial Staffs, and Bernard Dix, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees.

All are regarded as left-wingers whose removal through union influence would shift the balance of power in favour of the moderates.

The 650,000-strong block vote of the third largest affiliate to the party, the General and

Municipal Workers Union, is presumed to be critical to the outcome of the intense manoeuvring going on within the Labour movement, and pressure has been put on Mr David Barnett, the union's general secretary, to "deliver" for the right-wing list of NEC candidates.

Top-level talks have taken place with Mr Barnett, and he has agreed to maintain personal contacts with Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, on the general development of trade union attitudes within the party. But he has refused to ally his union with the "new right".

Mr Barnett said yesterday: "We will vote for the people (on the NEC) we have always voted for. I have never taken an outside list and I will not." He rejected the notion that his political creation, the Trade Unionists for Labour Victory organization, would be crippled by resignations if he did not toe the line.

That was, however, the allegation being made yesterday, that if the GMWU leader "did not come across his baby, the TULV, will be sunk without trace".

Mr Barnett added: "I am not a member of this right-wing group. I have refused to join it. It would be quite improper for me to join it or to start taking political attitudes".

The verbal conflict within the moderates' camp highlights the tension felt since Mr Benn declared his candidature. Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, and a leading figure in the right-wing movement, said yesterday: "Nothing sustains this Prime Minister's arrogance more than to see that these Labour movement does not speak with a united voice."

## Strike disrupts the Navy, unions say

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

Civil Service union leaders claimed last night that their industrial action was causing serious disruption of intelligence gathering and to the operations of the Navy.

The unions have called out on strike 500 staff in key computer and supply areas, which they say is restricting the Navy's ability to service and refit warships and submarines.

Three stations operated by the Composite Signals Organization, which monitors Soviet satellites and other radio signals, have so far been disrupted. Civil servants are planning to walk out at a fourth station at 10 pm tomorrow.

The unions claim that their action at the General Communications Headquarters centres at Bude, Cornwall, Chislehurst, Staffordshire and over last weekend at Culm Head, Somerset, has caused "serious embarrassment" to the Government, and has led to protests from the United States which shares information gathered by these stations.

The Council of Civil Service Unions, which is the umbrella body for the nine unions partying 540,000 white collar staff, said that "tens of thousands" of workers in the departments of Employment and Health and Social Security, walked out yesterday afternoon in protest at a threatened suspension of 47 staff at the

employment department's computer centre at Runcorn, Cheshire.

A council spokesman said last night that the staff, who have now been called out on strike, had been working only two days a week to process pay data to people on Job Release Schemes.

Mrs Margaret Platt, assistant general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, said the unions' action at the Ministry of Defence meant that the E30m refit of the Polaris submarine Revenge, was being delayed.

There had also been delays in the supply of missiles to the submarines and the exchange of missiles on one of the submarines had been postponed. A ship bringing Polaris components from the United States had been turned away from dockyards in Scotland and had returned to America, Mrs Platt said.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State at the Treasury, said last night that because of the selective strike action, it was not possible to continue the normal 10,000 repayments a day of value added tax to traders.

Holiday disruption: Air traffic controllers will not take industrial action over Easter as part of the dispute (the Press Association reports).

However, holiday were threatened last night when more than 100 staff went on "indefinite" strike at the Liverpool passport office.

## Mr Foot backs import curb to help car firms

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Drastic action was needed to protect the British car industry, Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Opposition, told a Labour Party rally in Birmingham last night.

The Government was rejecting advice from all quarters, and the director of the West Midlands Confederation of British Industry had given warning that 25,000 more jobs were in danger in the area unless there was a substantial improvement in the economy by the autumn.

"The Labour Party has been talking about selective import controls, which are used in almost every other industrialized country, for a very long time. If the Government had accepted our advice and that of the TUC a year ago, the motor industry would not be in the position it is today."

"They ask for efficiency and high productivity but they insist that industry competes at home and in world markets with one hand tied behind its back."

"Sponsoring all the advice, the Government had proceeded with a deflationary Budget. 'The consequence is that Britain, the only industrialized country with its own oil supplies, has a faster growing rate of unemployment, has less growth, more bankruptcies than almost any other industrialized country in the world.'"

"Why did the Government not use the North Sea oil money to invest in the public sector instead of dissipating it on the unemployed? If Britain was to benefit when the recession ended, we had to invest now in housing, transport, energy and civil engineering to modernize the economy."

"We must get away from the present deflationary policies, which are the most direct and deadly cause of the present state of the economy."

## £1.14 a week for our policy, party claims

By Christopher Warman  
Local Government Correspondent

The Labour Party's policies for London would cost on average an extra £1.14 a week for each household, Mr Andrew McIntosh, leader of the Labour Greater London Council group, said yesterday when naming motions closed for the local elections on May 7.

Improvements to London Transport, including a 25 per cent reduction in fares, more buses, cleaner Underground trains and free off-peak travel for pensioners are costed at 47p a week per household at 1981 prices.

Aid to new and existing companies, aimed at creating up to 10,000 jobs a year, will cost an estimated 30p a week. A further 27p a week will go on improvements in housing and the environment.

"This is the minimum programme we could put forward to secure our constituents' but it will only bring services up to the level of 1977. We could not put forward anything less to the electorate and hold our heads up," Mr McIntosh said.

Barring withdrawals there will be 489 candidates for the GLC elections, 16 more than the record four years ago. The Conservatives and Labour are putting up candidates for each of the 92 seats, the Liberals 89, "official" National Front 41, Ecology Party 38, and Communist Party 16. There will also be seven Social Democratic Alliance candidates, a Social Democrat for Paddington candidate, and a candidate in Kennington and Chelsea describing himself as "Council for Social Democracy".

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ployment spokesman said last night that the staff, who have now been called out on strike, had been working only two days a week to process pay data to people on Job Release Schemes.

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Barring withdrawals there will be 489 candidates for the GLC elections, 16 more than the record four years ago. The Conservatives and Labour are putting up candidates for each of the 92 seats, the Liberals 89, "official" National Front 41, Ecology Party 38, and Communist Party 16. There will also be seven Social Democratic Alliance candidates, a Social Democrat for Paddington candidate, and a candidate in Kennington and Chelsea describing himself as "Council for Social Democracy".

Labour's "press conference yesterday was attended by Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow em-

ployment spokesman said last night that the staff, who have now been called out on strike, had been working only two days a week to process pay data to people on Job Release Schemes.

Mrs Margaret Platt, assistant general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, said the unions' action at the Ministry of Defence meant that the E30m refit of the Polaris submarine Revenge, was being delayed.

There had also been delays in the supply of missiles to the submarines and the exchange of missiles on one of the submarines had been postponed. A ship bringing Polaris components from the United States had been turned away from dockyards in Scotland and had returned to America, Mrs Platt said.

Mr Peter Rees, Minister of State at the Treasury, said last night that because of the selective strike action, it was not possible to continue the normal 10,000 repayments a day of value added tax to traders.

Holiday disruption: Air traffic controllers will not take industrial action over Easter as part of the dispute (the Press Association reports).

However, holiday were threatened last night when more than 100 staff went on "indefinite" strike at the Liverpool passport office.

Census day is over; now the counting begins

## The forms are complete, but doubts remain



Mr Alexander Bianchi, aged 34, of the Elm Estate, in Bermondsey, London, after handing over his completed census form yesterday.

Next door Mrs Violet Bailey had the completed form ready on the hallstand. "This is extremely good," Mr Rushworth said approvingly. "You have answered it very well indeed." He declined Mrs Bailey's offer of further information.

A trainee social worker aged 23 mentioned that on his round in Dulwich he had been chased down the street by an outraged householder to whom he had delivered a form.

"What we are supposed to do officially in reply to that sort of behaviour is to explain the background to the census and the purposes of it, but the best thing to do was run," he said. He was unhappy at the prospect of returning to collect the form.

In the inner areas of Birmingham census supervisors said they had not had any reports from enumerators of people belonging to ethnic minorities refusing or failing to fill in the forms.

Interpreters with expertise in a total of 10 languages were available to help, and many of the enumerators covering areas with large communities of coloured people were West Indian or Asian.

North of the border, a retired engineer from Fife was doubtful of the value of the census. "If they actually spent £44m on providing lavatories they already know people do not have, there would be more wisdom in it," he said.

An aircraft engineer near by had written across that part of the questionnaire asking about qualifications: "I have many professional qualifications but consider them to be my own private business".

His objection was to being asked questions at all; his neighbour's objection was that the questions missed the point. "What they want an answer to, the sort of question that Enoch Powell raises, is 'and the ignored'," he said. "and the part where unemployed people fill in forms according to their last employer rather than a useful area."

Those who doubted the value of some of the questions appeared at first sight to have a point.

Several of the questions are often asked by government bodies and the answers are stored in computers where they can be used at the leisure of the Civil Service.

Why then ask the same questions again? The reply from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys is that "some of the information is available for some of the people, but not for everyone."

Many people may well have filled in forms in the past giving much of the information required in the census, but there are others who have not answered such questions and who do not, for instance, own cars or pay taxes or rents.

In its blanket coverage the census will certainly duplicate much information that is already available from other sources, but it will also gather details about members of households that have not previously been accessible.

The office has to steer a course between the wish not to pry too closely into people's private affairs and the pressure of local authorities and demographers, who say they need more information if they are to make accurate predictions.

Despite their attempt to please everyone, the census authorities have certainly succeeded in irritating Mrs Bernice Smith, of Weymouth, Dorset, who has sent a bill for £5 to Mr Patrick Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services, for the one hour, 10 minutes that it took her to fill in her form.

Leading article, page 13

## Moonies ruling will be studied

By Hugh Noves  
Parliamentary Correspondent

The Charity Commission decision not to remove Unification Church (Moonies) from the charity register would receive a deal of attention both in and outside Parliament, lawyers and other bodies, Francis Pym, Leader of the House, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, said yesterday.

What had been revealed said, was causing a great deal of anxiety. He was responding at the end of a debate, or Easter adjournment, to members on both sides, were urging the commission to change their minds.

Mr David Mellor, Conservative MP for Wandsworth, who first raised the issue in the House, said commission was wrong in not to investigate or remove "Moonies church" from list of charities.

Mr Mellor said he was to see that the Department of Health and Social Security looking into the brain-washing aspects of the matter.

Charities should be an important part of the nation's life should not be abused, degraded and brought into disrepute the activities of bodies such the Unification Church.

The commission's state was particularly "furious" it had acted with haste after the verdict of jury in the recent Daily Mail case. Mr Mellor, who that he was meeting Mr Francis Fitzgerald, the Chief relevant section of the Act moved such organizations, no way modified the basic principle of the commission to reject any institution which no appeared to be a charity.

Having seen the verdict the jury, Mr Mellor said, commission should have moved such organizations, no way modified the basic principle of the commission to reject any institution which no appeared to be a charity.

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## Democrats run close second to Labour in London opinion poll

By Ian Bradley

The Labour Party will win Paddington in next month's Greater London Council (GLC) election with the Social Democrats coming a close second, according to an opinion poll of voters in the borough.

The poll, conducted by Research Projects Ltd, for the Radical Centre for Democratic Studies in Industry and Society, involved 786 voters spread evenly across the constituency.

It found that if only Labour, Social Democrat and Conservative candidates were standing, they would poll respectively 33.6 per cent, 30.4 per cent and 20.8 per cent of the electorate.

If only Labour, Conservative and Liberal candidates stood, they would poll 46.7 per cent, 28.4 per cent, and 15 per cent respectively.

If candidates from all four parties stood, Labour would poll 33.8 per cent, Social Democrats 25.7 per cent, Conservatives 20.9 per cent, and Liberals 7.4 per cent.

The findings of the poll, which was carried out in the week before the launching of

the SDP, represent the first full analysis of the opinions of the London electorate.

They show, for example, that unemployment is rated the single most important issue in the forthcoming GLC election, followed by rates, inflation, education and rents.

In answer to a more general question on wider issues, those interviewed rated the right of parents to choose schools as the most important, followed by help to the unemployed, greater police powers to prevent mugging and street crime, outlawing the National Front, and enforcing laws against litter and dog fouling.

Mr James Spillius, the director of Research Projects Ltd, was yesterday named as Social Democrat candidate for Paddington in the GLC election. He replaces Mr James Daly, who stood down last week.

Although Mr Spillius' organization carried out the poll, he stresses that it was an impartial and independent survey. Interviewers were deliberately chosen evenly from all four political parties.

## No Thatcher comment on 1968 'plot'

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

Beyond drawing attention to the fact that the head of MIS is responsible directly to the Home Secretary, with right of access to the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said away yesterday from discussion about the purported plot against Sir Harold Wilson in 1968.

The Prime Minister managed even to decline an opportunity to say that she was satisfied with the way the system operated.

It was left to the usual Whitehall sources to assert that the implication was that she must be content, otherwise she would change the system.

The Prime Minister gave a written parliamentary answer to a question from Mr Edward Leadbitter, Labour MP for Hartlepool, who asked whether she was "satisfied with the arrangements for detecting any plans to subvert the elected government".

Instead of answering "Yes", Mrs Thatcher drew attention to a question from Mr Edward Leadbitter, Labour MP for Hartlepool, who asked whether she was "satisfied with the arrangements for detecting any plans to subvert the elected government".

That is the so-called Maxwell Fyfe directive (named after the Home Secretary of the time), and Mrs Thatcher noted that it was reproduced in the 1963 Vassall inquiry report by Lord Denning, who asked whether the nub is that the head of MIS, in his task of helping to defend the realm against internal organizations subversive of the state, reports to the Home Secretary, in matters of "supreme importance and delicacy" he may approach the Prime Minister directly. But the Prime Minister has no responsibility for day-to-day running of MIS.

Parliamentary report, page 8

## Oil rigs to be strengthened

By John Huxley

Three North Sea oil rigs similar in design to the Alexander L. Kielland, which capsized with the loss of 123 lives, are to undergo modification this summer.

They are the Pentagone 84, operated by Total Oil Marine, Duxlyn 97, operated by Union Oil, and Duxlyn 96, operated by Amoco. The Pentagone 84 is already being towed from a location east of Shetland, where it has been drilling, to the Norwegian port of Haugesund.

The other rigs, also east of Shetland in the Heather and Hutton North-west oil fields, are still operating. Although their owners and operators are satisfied that they are safe, the rigs will be "taken ashore" for "minor modifications".

The nature and timing of the modifications are still being discussed with representatives from Lloyd's Register of Shipping, but it is understood that the required changes are to strengthen the bracing of the five legs on each rig.

Yesterday the operators were confident that, barring unforeseen difficulties, the three rigs would return to service after the work, which will be carried out at the same time as the regular inspection.

Mr Robert Huskisson, the chairman of Lloyd's register, said yesterday that there was "remedial programme" for Pentagone-type rigs such as the Kielland, which capsized in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea in March last year. A report officially published yesterday criticized design and construction, as well as safety procedures on the rig.

Mr Huskisson said that earlier inspections had disclosed minor defects among the eight Pentagone rigs classified by Lloyd's. These were being corrected by techniques which would improve the fatigue life of welds.

The Kielland report traced the origins of the accident to metal fatigue emanating from a hole drilled into a leg brace to fix a hydrophone, an electronic positioning device. That eventually caused the member to fracture and one of the rig's legs to buckle in a heavy storm.

Mr Huskisson said that new, stricter rules for inspection of rigs were to be introduced. The technical committee is expected to endorse recommendations later this year which will require all offshore rigs to be subjected to a detailed inspection every 12 months instead of the present two years.

Owners have been alerted to the change. All three Pentagone rigs operating in the North Sea have undergone careful inspection. The Duxlyn 97 was inspected and later brought into Fetli, in Scotland, where it given a clean bill of health. Minor modifications now planned were described as "urgent".

Pentagone 84 also underwent a dry dock inspection on Cromarty Firth after the Kielland disaster. In addition routine maintenance, horizon bracing on the rig will now made fortnightly.

The Department of Energy expected to make a system after it has studied the report. But officials emphasized improvements to offshore safety were being made at a steady pace, and that department expected to provide much information for the Kielland report.

## Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are an advancing edge)

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## Renaissance drawing may be a fake

By Geraldine Norman  
Sale Room Correspondent

A drawing to be offered for sale by Christie's today is suspected by leading dealers and some museum experts to belong to a famous group of fakes. It is catalogued as a work of the Florentine Renaissance by a "follower of Andrea del Verrocchio" and depicts the "Head of a Youth with flowing hair". Christie's published estimate of its value is £10,000 to £15,000.

"Our first instinct is to withdraw it from sale," Christie's director, Mr Francis Russell, said yesterday. "But we have to contact the vendor and discuss it with him." He added that, whether the suggestion was true or not, once such gossip was travelling around the art market the drawing became virtually unsaleable.

It is suggested that the drawing comes from a group of fakes unmasked in *The Times* in 1978. They were marketed in London by the English artist, Eric Hebborn, who lives near Rome, in the 1960s and early 1970s. Purporting to be from the hands of various Italian masters, they ended up in some important museums.

Mr Hebborn dealt in Old Master drawings to supplement his income as an artist but has always rejected responsibility for the attribution of the drawings. "I have never posed as an expert," he told me. "It was the dealers and auctioneers who put names to the drawings."

The history of the drawing included in Christie's sale today is a mystery. The auctioneers would not reveal the name of the vendor.

When the drawing came in for sale, they had considered the possibility that it belonged to the well-known group of fakes but rejected it. The drawing bears the "R" mark of the great eighteenth-century collector, Jonathan Richardson; that was imitated on a number of the known fakes. Christie's looked at the mark under a microscope but could detect nothing wrong with it.

The vendor was also asked where the drawing came from. He was very definite that he had not bought it from Mr Hebborn; he had acquired it from a "Clementine" dealer.

He pointed out, however, that the technique of the drawing, metal point on a prepared ground, heightened with white, was very close to a little known group of drawings unquestionably dating from the period of Verrocchio. "My best guess," he said, "is that the drawing is not by one of his Florentine pupils but by a provincial imitator."

He remained convinced of the authenticity of the drawing, but conceded that the doubts raised by dealers and museums made it virtually unsaleable.

Sale Room, page 14

## Finance is offered to ensure future of Yorkshire Television

By David Hewson

Trident Television faces a serious challenge in its attempt to change the ownership of its subsidiary, Yorkshire Television, to meet the demands of the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The IBA is to meet on Thursday to discuss two possible structures for the new group, one formulated by Trident, the other by a group of rivals.

Mr Ward Thomas, the Trident chairman, said in a note to shareholders yesterday that the company had received "positive assurance of finance from eminently acceptable sources, which will ensure the future of Yorkshire Television with its present management and staff."

The identity of the backers of the rival bid remains secret, as does that of the groups supporting Trident, but they include at least one group which was involved in an unsuccessful consortium competing for a television franchise in another region last year.

Trident's results, which were announced yesterday, were audited by the company's auditors because of its inability to reach agreement with the IBA on the future of Yorkshire.

Last December the IBA ordered Trident to relinquish majority control of both Tyne Tees and Yorkshire, which it owns outright. But by the time the IBA's initial deadline ran out three weeks ago, Trident had managed to agree in out-

line only the terms of the restructuring of Tyne Tees.

The IBA said that it was planning immediate discussions with both Trident and others who had expressed interest in funding new companies, and set a deadline of three weeks for the talks, which expires today.

Mr Thomas said in a note to Trident's annual report, about assurances of finance: "In our view these arrangements meet the authority's requirements that the two programme companies should be separately and adequately financed, equipped and managed."

"I hope that the IBA will now feel able to confirm the provisional award of new contracts to both companies. Trident hopes to take a 20 per cent stake in both Tyne Tees and Yorkshire, and to rent the studios it owns back to the new companies. Tyne Tees is expected to be floated off as a separate entity next September with a 55m share issue, with a further £10m to be raised through loans."

One of the original points of contention between Trident and the IBA has been settled in three weeks, though not necessarily in the company's favour. Trident originally thought that Yorkshire was not likely to be profitable enough if it met its present commitments to attract investors.

In fact, the prospect of taking a stake in Yorkshire has proved of interest to a number of parties.

Financial Editor and Breaking German television monopoly, page 19



The Kings Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, rehearsing in Hyde Park, London, yesterday for the annual inspection parade. The troop was formed in 1946 for state ceremonies.

## Chemical warfare interest lands student in court

A "brilliant" student who was said to have got carried away with his researches into chemical warfare was given a conditional discharge yesterday after he admitted making a controlled drug and producing explosives.

Police found explosive fuses

and powerful hallucinatory drugs at the home of Jeremy Houlding, a Worcester magistrate heard. Mr David Hallmark, for the prosecution, said experts found that the fuses were "highly efficient".

The police also discovered

94 mg of the drug DMT and chemicals that could have produced LSD, Angel's Dust and amphetamines, he said.

Mr Houlding was ordered to pay 448 costs, and the chemicals were confiscated.

Mr David Wright, for Mr Houlding, said he was a "brilliant young student and a very upright and responsible young man". He added: "It is obvious that he got carried away with his researches and went too far. You are not dealing with an embryo terrorist or a bomb-happy lunatic."

## Prince for New York ballet gala

By Martin Huckerby  
Music Reporter

The Prince of Wales is to fly to New York in June for a gala performance at the Metropolitan Opera House to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Royal Ballet.

Tickets for the ballet, a reception and a ball will cost up to \$1,000 each, and the event could raise as much as \$1m for charitable causes. Some of the proceeds are expected to go to the Metropolitan Opera House's development appeal.

It is not yet known whether Lady Diana Spencer will accompany the Prince, but one guest at the performance of *The Sleeping Beauty* will be Mrs Nancy Reagan.

The gala will be held on June 17, but the Royal Ballet opens at the opera house two days earlier. It is the company's first visit to New York for five years, and forms part of a seven-week tour of North America.

## IBA and ITN strongly deny claims of bias in bulletins

By Brian MacArthur

Accusations of bias and distortion in television news bulletins were strongly denied yesterday by the Independent Broadcasting Authority and Independent Television News.

In a letter to the BBC and the IBA, more than 100 professors, trade union leaders and MPs had alleged that there was bias against the trade union and labour movement in public broadcasting.

Miss Barbara Hosking, the IBA's director of information, told yesterday: "Ensuring due impartiality and preserving an equitable balance between the parties is a task the IBA takes very seriously. We do it in her ways than by listing appearances. A mere headcount can be very misleading." She added that both national and regional programmes were continually monitored by the IBA.

ITN and BBC news coverage is been criticized by the

Glasgow University Media Group, which originated the letter to the BBC and the IBA, in two books, *Bad News*, and *More Bad News*, and, more recently, in the *New Statesman*.

Confidential BBC news and current affairs minutes obtained by the media group show, however, that the BBC is taking its accusations more seriously than it discloses in public statements.

For example, on January 27 the minutes record Sir Ian Trethowan, the Director General, saying that the BBC would come under increasingly critical observation from the militant left. Unlike ITN, the BBC decided to ignore the *New Statesman* article.

It was nevertheless accepted that there was "something" in what the group was saying, perhaps because broadcasters necessarily used "potted versions" of events.

## BBC apologizes over patients at Broadmoor

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC acknowledged on its nationwide television programme last night that it was wrong to describe Broadmoor as an institution housing 700 people "judged to be criminally insane".

It made the reference last night in a trailer for a three-part series that begins on Tuesday, bringing a protest to a threat of High Court action from the Matthew Trust, body that looks after the interests of mental patients.

The BBC said it accepted the statement was not fully accurate, as about a fifth of Broadmoor's patients were there because they were considered a danger to society. Mr Peter Thompson, chairman of the trust, said: "The BBC has given a guarantee that a statement will not appear on any programme on Broadmoor."

## Ban on jobless councillors' voting lifted

From Our Correspondent

Ludlow  
The Government yesterday lifted a ban preventing five out-of-work councillors from voting on issues affecting the unemployed.

Last month five members of Wrekin District Council, at Telford, Shropshire, protested that they had been prevented from voting on a proposal to offer reduced charges at recreation centres to the unemployed because they had a financial interest.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that he was giving the councillors a special dispensation.

Mr Simon Barber, secretary of the council, had said that the councillors were being prevented from taking decisions on a burning issue in Telford, which had the highest unemployment rate in the Midlands.

## Private bus service begins

Tim Jones

Local authorities and private enterprise transport throughout Britain will be watching Cardiff as the next six months after the opening yesterday of the first competitive bus route since the Transport Act, 1980, enabled a town hall monopoly to be lifted.

The service which will break a 50-year-old Cardiff bus

monopoly comes after fierce opposition from the council, who told the Traffic Commissioners that private operators would cream off the profitable routes to the detriment of the integrated system.

Mr Keith Morris, managing director of CK Coaches Ltd, said their fares would be 12p cheaper and conductors on board would help the elderly and disabled.

# If the captains of industry cannot be seen to maintain standards, who can?

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at speed and docile obedience in traffic.

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The interior has also been designed for a functional purpose. A fascia panel forewarns of low pressure or low fluid level in either of the two braking circuits, failure in the lighting system, or ice on the road ahead. Over thirty separate characteristics of the car's performance can be closely monitored by visual displays or controls setting

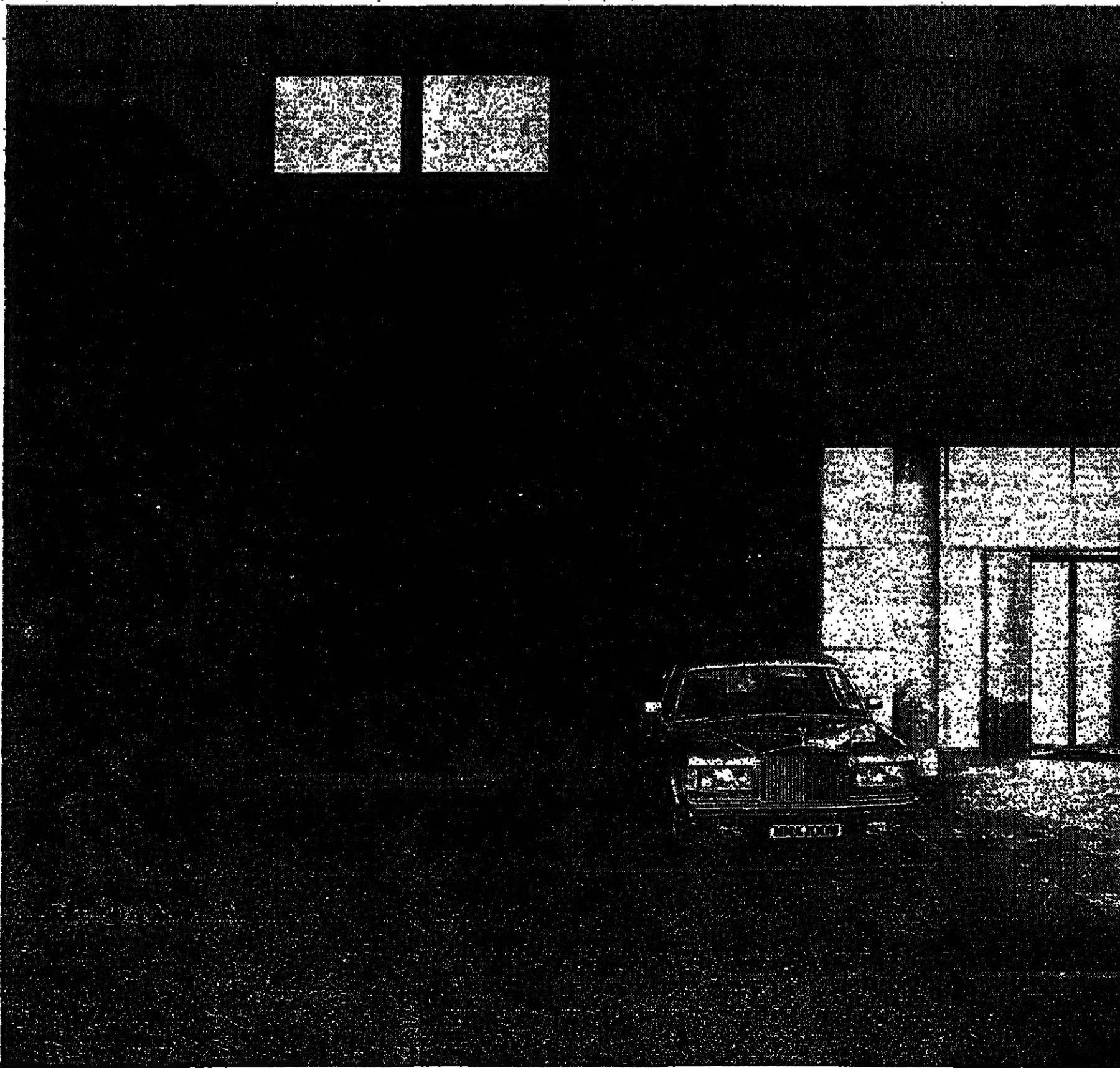
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## Dublin 'inferno inquiry' hears of conflict over whether club's emergency exit doors were locked

From Christopher Thomas  
Dublin

A judicial inquiry into the Stardust discotheque fire in Dublin on St Valentine's night, seven weeks ago, in which 48 people died and 160 were injured, heard yesterday that there was "a serious conflict of evidence" on whether some of the emergency exit doors were locked.

Mr John Lovett-Dolan, counsel to the tribunal, said it appears that the materials used in the furniture, the wall covering and possibly the ceiling tiles could have contributed to some of the deaths and injuries. He said the seating appeared to have been made with polyurethane filling in plastic covering. Wall and floor coverings, with the exception of the downstairs area, were of a particular kind of carpet tiling and there would be technical evidence later in the inquiry as to the effect of the materials on the spread of the fire.

Firemen had to free many people who took refuge in a lavatory, the window of which appeared to have been secured by steel plates welded on the inside of the metal frame, he said. The tribunal would have to decide if that was in accordance with safety regulations.

He said a relatively small fire was noticed at 1.40 a.m. and a fire alarm was sounded. The fire spread quickly along the seats in the alcove area and

seemed then to have spread on to a carpet-tiled wall at the back of the alcove, and from there to the ceiling.

"It is a matter of serious conflict that some members of the staff may have raised portions of the roller blind curtain, following which a ball of flame came hurtling across the hall at the level of the false ceiling, which was also tiled."

"It would be no exaggeration to describe the resulting spread of fire, which was rapid and intense, as an inferno."

He said the inquiry would be told that there was a sudden blackout and that at the same time the hall was enveloped in dense smoke, which choked many of the patrons, making it hard for them to escape.

Some of the patrons would allege that they had to force open locked exit doors. The management did not accept that, and said that at all relevant times the doors were unlocked, Mr Lovett-Dolan said.

Det. Maurice Garde, of the Police Mapping Bureau, who carried out tests a few hours after the fire, said he found openings on lavatory windows reduced by immovable steel plates to 7 in. by 9 in. He also found that two doors at the main entrance were locked, one with a steel roller bar.

He agreed with Mr Naill MacCarthy, for the proprietors of the club, that the steel plating could have been placed over the windows to prevent

offensive weapons or drugs being passed in from the outside.

The inquiry, which opened with a preliminary hearing on March 2 and was adjourned until yesterday, is expected to last six weeks.

The police have taken 1,600 statements and hundreds of witnesses are expected to appear before the four-man tribunal, headed by Mr Justice Ronan Keane, a High Court judge and an expert on planning law.

The inquiry, which was adjourned until today, aims to establish the causes of the fire; the circumstances leading to loss of life and personal injury; the measures taken to deal with the fire; the adequacy of the means of escape; measures taken to ensure public safety; and the application in the law of the conduct, supervision and inspection of the premises.

The blaze was one of Ireland's worst tragedies on land. There were 841 people at the dance and there was a bar extension until 1 a.m. The dance was to have ended at 2 a.m.

An emergency Cabinet meeting ordered the inquiry the day after the disaster.

Mr Lovett-Dolan said the Stardust property and various associated businesses were owned by a series of interlocking companies, the shares of which were described as being "various members of the Buttery family".

Dr Eric Fenby conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at a recording of works by Delius which were dictated to him by the blind composer.

## Remaining Bristol riot charges are dropped

By Lucy Hodges

The Director of Public Prosecutions decided yesterday not to pursue charges against the remaining four defendants in the Bristol riot trial.

The DPP announced that he was dropping the charges in the public interest and that an important factor in reaching his decision was advice he had received from the chief constable concerning the promotion of racial harmony in Bristol. It is believed to be the first time that has been given as a reason for dropping charges.

Mr Brian Weigh, Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset, who withdrew his men from St Paul's, Bristol, when the disturbances were at their height on April 2 last year, said he fully supported the decision.

"I would add that as far as race relations in Bristol are concerned the need is to look forward with confidence and not to dwell on the past," he said. Mr Weigh would add nothing more to his statement. The DPP, however, said that normally, where a jury at a first trial could not agree, the prosecution would present the evidence again at a second trial.

At the recent riot trial eight people were acquitted and the jury failed to reach agreement on the remaining four.

The DPP added: "The Attorney-General has now considered, in consultation with the Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset, the Director of Public Prosecutions and senior counsel, whether that procedure should be followed in this case and all are agreed that it would not be in the public interest to hold a further trial of the remaining four defendants."

The four defendants were Doreta Maye, aged 25, of Princess Street, Bedminster, Carlton Sharpe, aged 17, of Walton Street; Paul Birms, aged 18, and Andrew Minter, aged 17, both of Ashley Road, all Bristol.

Mr Minter was the only white man to be charged with riotous assembly. Miss Maye was also charged with maliciously wounding a policeman but that was also dropped. Lawyers and community leaders said they thought it had been a big mistake to have brought the riot charges against a handful of people singled out

from hundreds who had been involved in the disturbances. The total cost of the trial is thought to be in the region of £400,000.

"It was obviously an enormous waste of public money," Mr Peter Courrier, Bristol's community relations officer said. "While the trials were going on it was difficult to improve relationships with the police. I hope that will be behind us now."

"Our view has always been that the police were just as much responsible for what happened on that day as the people."

Mrs Gareth Pierce, one of the defending solicitors, said she wished the DPP had taken their advice last year. When the riot charges were mooted she had written to him begging him to drop them on the ground that they would not only reopen wounds but would also create fresh ones. The trial, which lasted for seven weeks in Bristol Crown Court and involved 17 barristers, was remarkable not only for its outcome but also for the composition of the jury. Of the 12 members, five were

non-white, and that was achieved during the jury selection process when the defendants used up 35 of their 36 votes agreed not to oppose any of the non-white jurors chosen.

Riotous assembly is regarded as an extremely serious charge, with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, and is used rarely. It was not used, for example, after the Southall riot in London in 1978 or in connection with disturbances in Nottingham, also London.

The last big occasion on which it was used was in 1970, when students invaded a dinner given in Cambridge by the Greek tourist office. Some were imprisoned and sent to borstal, but they all also faced lesser charges.

Another remarkable feature of the Bristol riot trial was that all the original 16 defendants, apart from Miss Maye, faced only the riot charge. The earlier lesser charges for which they were first arrested were dropped. They included threatening behaviour and possession of an offensive weapon, and would not have merited trial by jury.

## Bribes trial man says he was told to flee

From a Correspondent  
Middlesbrough

John Symonds, a former detective sergeant in Metropolitan Police, who appeared for eight years as being accused of taking bribes said at his trial yesterday that he was told by a senior officer to leave the country.

The man who told him, Detective Chief Superintendent Alfred Moody, who conducted the bribery investigation against him 10 years ago, said.

Mr Moody, later imprisoned for corruption, did not tell directly, Mr Symonds said, advice was passed down other officers.

Mr Symonds, aged 45, denies three charges of bribery accepting a total of £5,000 from a former criminal, the jury at Teesside Crown Court that he went to Africa and he travelled Australia and New Zealand before returning to London May to give himself up.

Mr Symonds, who is defending himself, claims that he "set up" by Mr Michael Perry the former criminal. He suggested that two reporters The Times acted as accomplices by editing in recorded conversations between himself and Mr Perry.

Mr Roy Taylor, deputy technical manager of EML, called by Mr Symonds as an expert witness on the tape which was given to South Yorkshire by The Times, said: "I am suggesting that there are signs that these tapes have been fabricated."

The case continues today.

## Police used bugging to trap men

From Our Correspondent  
Manchester

Detectives bugged a ho room to trap two businessmen dealing in stolen paintings worth more than £40,000. At Chester Crown Court was yesterday.

From an adjoining suite a police heard the two men a their Dutch customers negotiate the price of a Renoir, a Matisse and an inscribed work thought to be by Cézanne. Mr Jo Huggill, QC, for the prosecution said.

When they were about to be handed over, the police intervened. The paintings had been stolen in a £58,000 raid on Elizabethan mansion near Dr Bumsburside, 10 months earlier.

Mr Huggill said that the "customers" were a Dutch detective and his informant who had been working close with local officers to trace the men selling the paintings for half their value in February last year.

Denis Wilson, aged 41, Didsbury, Manchester, was sent to prison for five years at John Bhagwanani, aged 51, Pinelane Road, Chilworth, Southampton, was jailed for 18 months.

Mr Wilson, the owner of discount furniture warehouse, Manchester, admitted handling the paintings and receiving three diamond rings, worth £4,500, which had been stolen in a £19,500 raid on a jeweller shop in Bolton, Lancashire.

Mr Bhagwanani admitted assisting in the disposal of the stolen paintings. The court was told that Mr Wilson was found in possession of one of the stolen rings.

Mr George Carman, QC, for Mr Bhagwanani, said he was made of great commercial integrity. It was not until the paintings had been bought and valued that they knew they had been stolen. He tried to help in their disposal, but he would not have gained financially.

Mr Daniel Bhagwanani, for Mr Wilson, said he established a sound business which had been badly affected by the recession.

## In brief

### Foot-and-mouth curbs end soon

Restrictions on the movement of animals in the Isle of Wight imposed because of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, are expected to be lifted in about a week's time, provided tests on two new suspected cases prove negative. The results are expected today. The restrictions on livestock movements in Hampshire and Dorset, opposite the island, were lifted at midnight on Sunday.

### PC for trial

Police Constable Arthur Pollock, aged 22, of Ravenshoe, Police Station, House, Hammsmith, was committed for trial at the Inner London Crown Court by Horses Ferry Road magistrates yesterday charged with attempting to obtain £975 by deception from the Paramount Insurance Company Ltd by falsely representing that

### Train attacked

Police were yesterday searching for a gang of youths who fired air guns and threw stones at a Nottinghamshire train carrying a party of children. The train was forced to stop in Wellesborough, Northamptonshire, to have broken glass cleared.

### Anaesthetist fined

Dr Betty Ling, aged 51, a consultant anaesthetist at Manor House Hospital, Golders Green, London, was fined £175 and disqualified from driving for a year by Mendon magistrates yesterday for driving while unfit through drink and assaulting a police officer.

### Two paintings missing

Two seventeenth-century paintings, of King Charles II and the Queen, Catherine of Braganza, have disappeared from Westminster School, London. They were valued at £350 each and had been at the school for more than 100 years.

### £300,000 damages

Mr John Cluley, the former director of Clarke Cluley, an engineering company, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, was awarded damages of £300,000 in a settled High Court action yesterday for injuries in a road accident six years ago. QC Sawort

### Strike closes airport

A strike by 300 firemen and ground staff closed Belfast airport yesterday. They have been offered a wage increase of 9 per cent, but have rejected conditions attached to it by the Northern Ireland Airports Authority.

### Botanist found dead

Mr Dilwyn Morgan, aged 61, a botanist, of Treherbert, Mid-Glamorgan, who went on the Brecon Beacon to sow the seeds of rare wild flowers to prevent them from becoming extinct, was found dead on Sunday, police said yesterday.

### Driver decapitated

Trooper Mark William James, age 30, of The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, was decapitated by flying barbed wire while driving a Scimitar tank last weekend on exercises on Salisbury Plain. It was disclosed yesterday.

### Alarms to be ignored

Bedfordshire police said yesterday that they would ignore automatic alarm calls from firms which had recorded false alarms. Last year 87 per cent of the 6,127 calls they received were false.

### Trains disrupted

Main line train services to and from South Wales were badly disrupted again yesterday by unofficial guards' action over new timetables.

## Computers in schools plan starts

A Government-backed scheme to put a microcomputer into every secondary school by the end of next year was launched in London yesterday by Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

The Department of Industry cases up in its "micros in schools" programme to match pound-for-pound spending by local authorities on computers. The Department of Education is launching a £10m microelectronics education programme.

Mrs Thatcher told a Press conference: "We want to be in this world of microcomputers and we want to be in it big." She described the "micros in schools" programme as an exciting adventure. "It is a very important first step in the Government's information technology programme."

The Government would use public purchasing to help British-based manufacturers. She added: "Our future prosperity depends in large part on the quality of education today. Mrs Thatcher hoped that parent associations and local industry would become involved in raising finance for school computers; the cheapest would require a contribution of only £150.

## Fears for academic standards

By Our Education Correspondent

The Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), the main validating body for degrees in the public sector, said yesterday that the government cuts in funding for polytechnics and colleges could lead to courses falling below the standards acceptable for continued council approval.

The council has written to 135 institutions which provide courses leading to CNAA awards, asking them to assess the potential effects on academic standards of cuts planned for 1981-82.

Replies have been requested by the end of May so that there is time, before students are admitted to courses in the session 1981-82, for the discussion of any major difficulties. Early replies had produced a mixed picture, Dr Edwin Kerr, the council's chief officer, said yesterday. Some institutions were hardly being cut at all, others were being severely cut.

"The picture is so variable that it causes one to reflect on the rightness of the present system for resource allocation in the public sector," Dr Kerr said.

## MPs lobbied on transport

Thousands of transport workers took part in a lobby of the House of Commons yesterday, and a rally near by to protest at government policies that unions claim are leading to deterioration in public transport services.

The action was part of the TUC's "week of activities" in protest at the Government's social and economic policies. Further demonstrations and protest meetings are to be held throughout the country over the next five days.

## Whitehall brief: How Wilson report may avoid paths to the pigeon hole



Photograph by Warren Harrison

The Public Records Committee (from left): Mr Graham Aylett, Mrs H. Hughes-Jones (secretariat), Sir Paul Osmond, Sir Duncan Wilson, Professor Margaret Gowing and Miss J. E. A. Hart (secretariat).

## Fight by the 'good and the great'

By Peter Hennessy

The "good and great" are starting to fight back. The distinguished men and women who people royal commissions and committees of inquiry are no longer prepared to sit back and watch their reports pass down the thousand-and-one "paths to the pigeon hole". That apt phrase is from Professor Bernard Williams, who will be delivering a paper on the subject at a Royal Institute of Public Administration conference at Sussex University on Friday.

Lord Rothschild began the process with an outspoken address to the British Academy in 1978 and an article in The Times the next year about the fate of his Royal Commission on Gambling. Last week Sir Duncan Wilson's Public Records Committee took up the torch by showing every determination to prevent its report being sabotaged by what one Whitehall insider called "the classic Yes Minister tactics", which look almost certain to be deployed against it.

The committee won the first round by raising the stakes for any Cabinet that ignores its

findings. It promulgated as its central observation the fact that a previous body, the Griggs Committee on Public Records, produced a system of exemplary soundness which in 1981, 29 years after it first sat, has still not been implemented properly. It began its work in 1952, reported in 1954 and saw its recommendations enshrined in the Public Records Act, 1958.

"We believe," Sir Duncan, a former ambassador to Moscow, Professor Margaret Gowing, a member of the Griggs Committee and official historian of atomic energy, and Sir Paul Osmond, former secretary to the Church Commissioners, wrote, "that our report is a sobering commentary on the ability of government to implement administrative reforms which it accepted wholeheartedly and embodied in legislation."

Decoded from the language of White Papers, that message reads: "Will Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government please do what the Macmillan, Home, Wilson, Heath and Callaghan Administrations failed to do and live up to the spirit and letter of the 1958 Act to ensure that important files are not lost or shredded but moved on time into the public domain after the expiry of 30 years."

The Wilson committee has a point. None of the usual alibis for Whitehall inertia or incapacity apply. Ministers cannot blame Opec, the trade

unions or fickle electorate for failing to keep the collective memory of government intact for the benefit of both departments and posterity.

If central government, with a staff of 695,100 and an annual running cost of £8,300m (the public records system accounts for £11.7m) cannot keep its own files in order, what successes can be expected of it in other more demanding areas such as managing the economy or sustaining a defence capability?

The immediate onus for the Wilson report are bad. An Official Cabinet Committee on Public Records is already being under Mr John Bergin, a deputy secretary in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Once the committee receives guidance from ministers it will set to work costing the Wilson reforms.

Ministers, given the economic climate, are almost certain to say that not a penny more or a single extra civil servant can be devoted to record work. Mr Bergin's committee will then dutifully report that to upgrade certain records staff and to improve facilities for such things as machine readable, that is computerized or other mechanical forms of records, could cost a great deal.

The Government will delay the report until the autumn. That reply is likely to say that austerity prevents the implementation of otherwise laud-

able proposals, while omitting to mention that ministers and permanent secretaries, breaking the habits of a lifetime and assuming their proper personal responsibilities under the 1958 Act, the most important of the Wilson reforms—would not add 50p to the public sector borrowing requirement.

There is hope, however, that a Yes, Minister result can be averted. MPs and newspapers are interested and will not let the subject die. Mr Alfred Dubs, Labour MP for Wandsworth, Battersea South, is to ask the Leader of the House to allow the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs to monitor public records policy (at present all aspects of the work of the Lord Chancellor's Department are debarré from scrutiny by Parliamentary committees).

It would help, too, if schools of public policy in universities and polytechnics adopted the subject as a test case of policy implementation over a 30-year period, not to mention Mr Antony Jay and Mr Jonathan Lynn, the inspired authors of Yes, Minister.

In that event, should Mr Bergin's committee and the ministers to whom it will report maintain the inertia of the past, they will at least have the consolation of achieving permanent notoriety and immortality by textbook and celluloid.

## Former war pilots campaign to stop the sale of military aircraft collection

Old aircraft have a sound, style and scent that can now rarely be experienced outside memory. One more chance to hear the washpower of a piston-engine fighter and the forbidding drone of a Lancaster bomber is about to slip away unless a Scottish baronet changes his mind and holds on to one of the most valuable collections of military aircraft in the world.

A group of Second World War servicemen and the Royal Scottish Museum have so far failed to persuade Sir William Denby Roberts not to sell the Strathallan historic aircraft collection in Perthshire by auction this summer.

The campaign is supported by Air Vice-Marshal Johnnie Johnson, the former fighter pilot, Captain Alec Mackenzie, Lancaster Pathfinder pilot, and Professor R. V. Jones, of Aberdeen University. If interest stirs among the international community of aircraft fanciers, the sale in July by Christie's could realize more than £1m.

Many of the Strathallan aircraft are more than mere museum pieces; they actually fly. Crowds of more than 20,000 turn up at the airfield on the days the veteran aircraft take to the air, and more than 60,000 visit the aircraft museum there each year. Other leading figures in the

## Regional report

### Ronald Faux Strathallan

aviation world who have added their names to the campaign to save the collection include Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron, who is closely involved with the RAF museum at Hendon. He has suggested that the Strathallan collection might be saved to become a Scottish branch of the national collection. That idea has been endorsed by Air Vice-Marshal D. C. A. Lloyd, the Air Officer Commanding Scotland.

The Scottish Aircraft Collection Trust has been formed to try to keep the aircraft in Scotland, but the appeals have flown over the head of Sir William, who founded his collection 11 years ago and insists that he has to sell because of mounting value-added tax and rates bills. He said he had tried to wring some sympathy from the taxpayer, but to no avail.

Air Vice-Marshal Johnson believed that it would be tragic if the collection was broken up. "There is everything there

associated with the aerial struggle during the Second World War. There are the trainer aircraft that produced the pilots, the fighters that held back the invasion and the bombers that took the Allies on to the offensive," he said. The flying examples included a superbly restored Lysander, the whispering monoplane used to land secret agents in France; the Mosquito fighter-bomber, one of the few still flying; and the only Hurricane fighter in private hands still able to leave the ground.

Captain Mackenzie flew the collection's Lancaster bomber to Strathallan from western Canada. "I appreciate that Sir William owns the aircraft and can do what he likes with them, but at the same time the collection has become so important. The Royal Scottish Museum, which controls the Museum of Flight at East Fortune Airfield, near Edinburgh, is keen to see as many Strathallan aircraft as possible kept in Scotland. Mr Robert Brooks, head of Christie's vintage car and historic aircraft department, said that 25 aircraft would be auctioned. The Hurricane alone was expected to reach six figures. There was great enthusiasm for historic aircraft in America, Australia, Europe and Britain, and the sale would be advertised all over the world."



# You have only one life to insure. How should you choose the right company to insure it?

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Their members account for about 90% of all ordinary life insurance business written in the United Kingdom.

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It's worth remembering that life insurance is probably the biggest purchase you'll ever make apart from your home.

So it's important that you get it right.

If you would like a copy of the Code of Selling Practice, or information about the booklets and educational material produced by the Associations, please write to:-

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## Solidarity adviser says Soviet intervention is only hope for Polish party's hardliners

Warsaw, April 6.—The Warsaw branch of Solidarity, the free trade union federation, quoted today one of its top advisers, Mr Jan Olszewski, as saying that only "intervention" could save Communist Party hardliners from being ousted by rebellious rank-and-file members.

The party is at present in the throes of an election campaign which could lead to a profound shake-up in its leadership. Officials are being elected by secret ballot from an unlimited number of candidates at all levels, in preparation for a national party congress to be held before July 20.

The campaign is going ahead despite apparent misgivings among the hardliners, led by Mr Stefan Olszowski, a member of the Politburo, who is representing Poland alongside Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, at the Czechoslovak party congress in Prague.

There were no signs of special political activity in Warsaw, where a session of the Sejm (Parliament) had been postponed from today to Friday be-

cause of what was described as the indisposition of Mr Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister. The official news agency PAP reported today that Mr Jaruzelski had gone down with a throat infection, which was now mild.

Officials also announced that a new law drastically relaxing censorship had been submitted formally to the Sejm.

For the first time since the war, MPs will have two sets of proposals to choose from. A draft proposal to curb censorship was submitted late last year by the Justice Ministry, but rejected as inadequate by intellectuals and Solidarity, who then drew up their own version.

Differences in the two Bills include which publications are to be exempted and what penalties are to be imposed. Both sides agree that scholarly works, religious texts, statistical publications, materials published before 1918, parliamentary speeches and court verdicts should no longer be subject to censorship.

The intellectuals also want exemption for bulletins of registered organizations, including

unions, and want censors' deletions to be marked by some symbol.—Reuter.

**Romanian reforms:** A trade union congress in Bucharest began work today on proposed reforms, apparently intended to head off labour unrest similar to that which has swept Poland. President Ceausescu called for a shorter working week and urged unions to do more for their members.

He told union leaders that their organizations should not be subordinated to the Communist Party, but "should act through party members inside the unions".—AP.

**Manoeuvres continue:** Tank and troop reinforcements drafted into the Warsaw Pact's joint manoeuvres over the weekend, have been assembled in the centre of East Germany, according to press reports in East Berlin.

The official newspaper *Neues Deutschland* said tanks and armoured cars had been loaded onto trains at bases throughout the "central sector" in preparation for new combat operations in the war games.—Reuter.

Naval and air alert as plans are made to house refugees

## Swedes would protect Poles fleeing invasion

From A Special Correspondent Stockholm, April 6

Sweden has prepared a complex scheme of air and naval defence to be put into operation if the Soviet Army invades Poland.

Air and naval reconnaissance has already been increased along the Baltic coast around southern Sweden, and naval commanders have specific instructions to defend any ships especially those which may carry refugees from Poland, should they enter Swedish territorial waters.

The Swedish Government has also asked local authorities in the southern provinces of Skane and Smaland to prepare for possible influx of thousands of Polish refugees. In the towns of Varad, Söderstad and Trelleborg, officials have compiled lists of schools, holiday camps and even theatres which could be used to house Poles who might be expected to flee their country.

The Swedes are emphasizing that their contingency plans do not represent any kind of prediction about the outcome of the Polish crisis and that they are only taking measures which any country would adopt in the same circumstances. But

Sweden has no intention of compromising its neutrality and is therefore making no secret of its heightened naval and air alert.

Swedish refugee planning is a natural historical consequence of the past 42 years when the country received refugees from Poland, in 1939, and from the Baltic states.

In Stockholm, however, officials also have a small historical nightmare. In the Second World War Polish naval craft sought sanctuary in Sweden. At least one submarine surrendered to the Swedish Navy in 1939 and its crew was taken to Stockholm for internment. The government here is anxious to avoid the possibility of any defecting Polish naval vessels running for Swedish waters.

Its instructions to Swedish naval commanders, however, are strict to the point of legality, so far as civilian craft are concerned. As one source put it: "If there is a military conflict in Poland and Polish refugees take a boat to Sweden, the Swedish Navy can assist them in international waters, by answering a distress call. Once on board a Swedish

ship, Polish refugees would effectively be on Swedish territory and they would be safe. If another navy, the Soviet Navy, stops them first, then there is nothing we can do for them.

"If they reach Swedish territorial waters 12 miles from our coastline, then they are under our protection. If anyone else tries to molest them, then the Swedish Navy will interfere. If necessary, it will start shooting."

Such words are not normally heard in Stockholm but the Swedes are apparently in no mood to allow any naval power to play fast and loose with Swedish territorial waters.

Despite the occasionally indulgent attitude adopted by Western European countries towards its armed forces, the Swedish Army and Air Force would represent a very considerable opponent.

Sweden is the most powerful neutral in Europe and possesses as many interceptors as the NATO has in the whole of northern Europe. Many of these aircraft can use highways as emergency landing strips and a fair proportion of the Swedish Navy is based in docks made of solid rock.

The military authorities here believe that some of their heavy defence artillery in the Swedish archipelago is so well embedded in cliffsides that it could withstand all but a direct nuclear hit.

The Swedes have tried to let other nations know that they are prepared to open fire if their neutrality is infringed. Twice in the past six months submarines have been observed off the Swedish coast and on one occasion the Swedish Navy dropped depth charges near the offending vessel to persuade it to leave territorial waters.

A crewman on a Swedish frigate who first saw the submarine submerged later made a drawing of the vessel and from it the authorities concluded that it was from a Warsaw Pact country.

The Swedish Navy is well aware of Soviet and East German naval movements in the Baltic. The Russians in their turn are keeping a weather eye on other navies. Three Warsaw Pact minesweepers are at present on permanent patrol between the Oresund, between Denmark and southern Sweden, monitoring every ship that passes through the strait.

## Nato likely 'to be transformed in 1980s'

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

Defence might have reached turning point in its history, John Nott, the British Defence Secretary, said in Bonn last night. The next 10 years will see a transformation in defence more significant than change during the past quarter-century.

Mr Nott also dropped hints upon the way his government was preparing to conduct its own review in attempt to make Britain's commitments come into line with available cash.

He was speaking to Society of Foreign Policy on eve of a meeting of NATO Nuclear Planning Group, flew to West Germany with Caspar Weinberger, his American counterpart.

Technological change accelerating and the mood has become questioning, he said. "So we are trying to spread efforts too thinly over too many tasks and we are going to concentrate our effort to achieve a more effective put."

The reference to spread resources too thinly is significant because of recent opinion over the British Government's long-term intention to reduce the number of divisions which have to be met from national defence budget.

Mr Nott said Britain not provided troops in West Germany, but found 70 per cent of NATO's forces in the Atlantic, in addition to training an independent nuclear deterrent.

"Our commitment to forward defence of Germany is in doubt. It is under review now. There was, however, a limit how far Britain's defence spending could go as it already a much higher proportion of gross national product than any other European ally."

Mr Nott said that he did envisage any change in alliance's doctrine of the d

## Giscard slurs Whitehall

By George Clark Political Correspondent

Ministers in London are angry about the accusation made in France on Thursday that the British Government is trying to change the rules of the European Community "in the course of the game" and that 1981 will be the "year of truth" when it is seen whether the United Kingdom really accepts the rules.

Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal and acting Foreign Secretary, is likely to make a robust reply to this charge when he speaks in the House of Commons tomorrow in a debate on Community affairs.

British ministers say the charge is completely untrue, and that it comes rather oddly from a country which has not exactly been noted for its religious observance of the rules so far.

## Space shuttle countdown begins for Friday launch

From Michael Leapman New York, April 6

The countdown to next Friday's launching of the space shuttle Columbia began last night, despite an electrical fault which had threatened to delay it. By early afternoon the count was three hours behind schedule; but this may be absorbed in the 30hr "cushion" of hold time built into the schedule.

"Set three days, one hour, zero minutes" said Mr Andy Brown, the official in charge of the countdown, just before 11.30 pm Eastern Standard Time (5.30 am BST) last night, at the launching centre at Cape Canaveral in Florida. "Commence counting at 4.30 pm Greenwich Mean Time."

Adding the hold time to the time Mr Brown specified, the launch should take place at 6.50 am EST on Friday. The 54hr 30min flight will end on Air Force Base in California.

Yesterday's fault was a "pogo" valve, whose function is to prevent the spacecraft from being shaken to pieces by oscillation in the rocket engines. The valve opened without being told to.

After hours of frantic searching for the trouble, it was traced to a short-circuit and patched up. Officials decided to start the countdown on schedule, although other pre-launch checks which should have been done yesterday will now have to be done in one of the 30hr "cushion" of hold time.

The decision not to postpone the start of the count shows how anxious officials are that this delayed project should get the ground on Friday planned. After so many years over the past three years they feel a further one week would look silly.

Every such decision has to be calculated closely. They will after all, look even sillier if they were to cause a bigger problem, causing mission to be delayed or even to fail completely.

Today's three-hour delay, caused by another short-circuit and leak in a valve feed oxygen to the craft, B faults were traced and rectified.

At Houston, Texas, yesterday, Captain John Young of this first reusable space vehicle, had their 15th meeting. They will now go into near-isolation to avoid picking up any ill which could delay the launch.

## Invasion by osmosis, Mr Weinberger says

By Our Diplomatic Staff

The Soviet Union had already invaded Poland by a process of osmosis, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the American Secretary of Defence, said yesterday.

Speaking during visits to two NATO air bases in Britain during his first official journey abroad as Secretary of Defence, he said the West had always faced the problem of whether Soviet action would be "a standard conventional-type invasion, or an invasion by osmosis in which there's a gradual filtering in" with additions to the Russian divisions that had already been in Poland for a long time.

The fine line between different types of military activity had always been hard to draw, he said, but what was taking place now was "intended to have the same coercive effect on the Polish people that an invasion would have."

Asked when a response from the NATO allies might become necessary, Mr Weinberger replied: "I think we've seen a fair amount of allied response already." He hoped there would be more at the NATO nuclear planning group meeting in Bonn today and that there would be concerted statements and concerted economic, political and diplomatic activity.

The difficulty with economic measures was how to do something that would not hurt the Polish people but would hit the root cause of crisis, which was the Soviet threat.

An American correspondent asked whether by its constant comments on the gravity of the Polish situation, the United States Administration was not guilty of brinkmanship. That

was absolutely wrong, Mr Weinberger said.

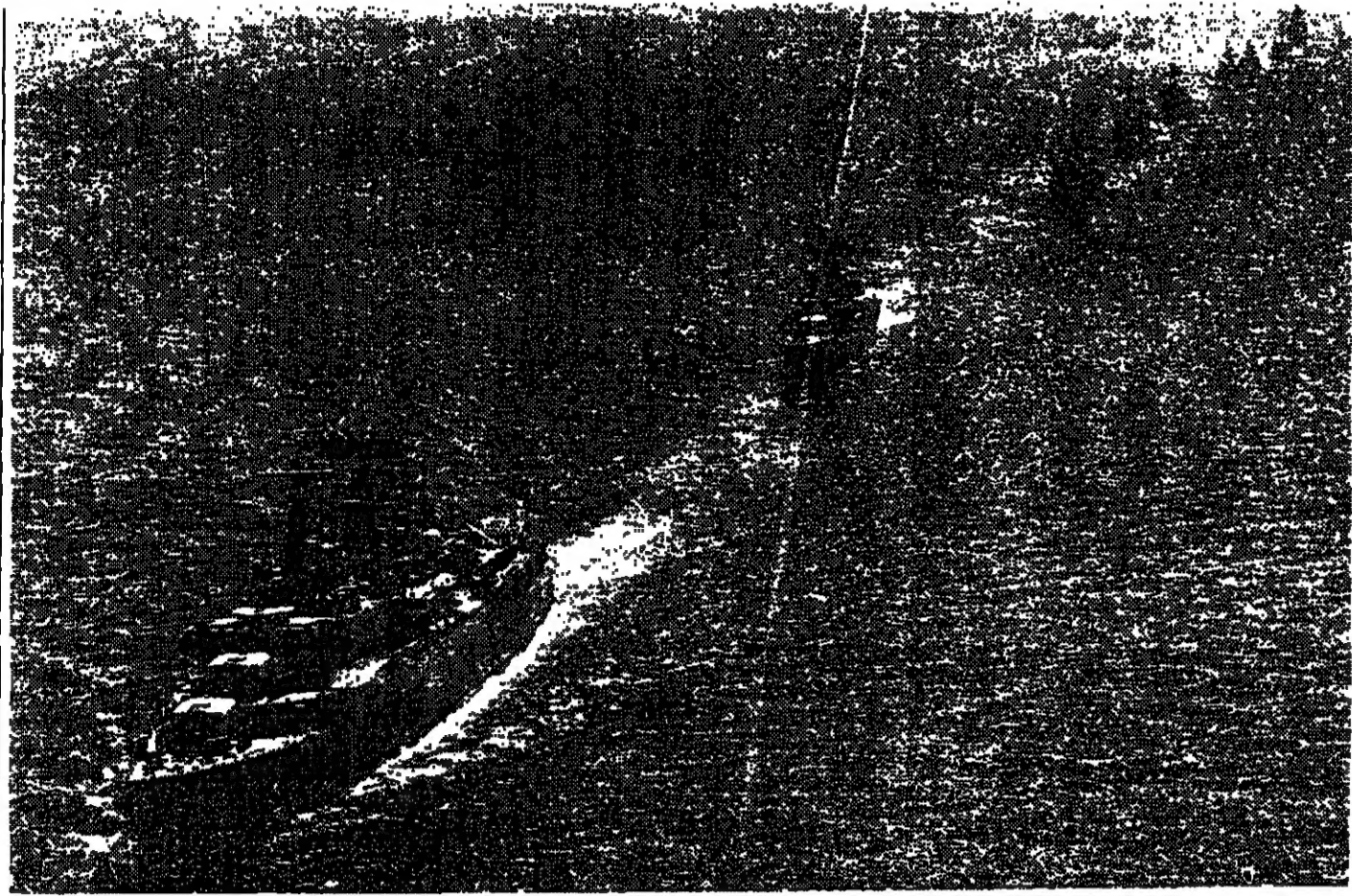
If anyone who made such criticism had the opportunity of looking at some of the information coming in, they would not question the gravity of the situation, Mr John Nott, the British Defence Secretary, who travelled to the air bases with Mr Weinberger, concurred.

Soviet military activity was still consistent with manoeuvres, Mr Weinberger said, but this was getting less and less credible the longer the activity continued. "We just hope that their actions start to be reversed. If they are indeed manoeuvres, as the Soviets have said, we would hope the manoeuvres will be declared over and the reinforcements will go home."

The American Defence Secretary said that apart from Poland, the nuclear planning group's meeting would be devoted to discussing implementation of agreements for the strengthening of theatre nuclear forces be dismissed. American criticism of him for postponing the meeting because of the crisis created by the assassination attempt on President Reagan.

Such criticism reflected "incomplete knowledge of NATO and the ability of one country to join the nuclear planning group to suit their own convenience." Asked what assurances he could offer British people who opposed the stationing of cruise missiles, Mr Weinberger said the NATO defence system was the best nuclear deterrent available.

Mr Weinberger's day began with a flying visit with Mr Nott to RAF Cosford in South Leicestershire. They then flew to RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk



Spring exercise: The destroyer London, flying the flag of Admiral Sir James Eberle, Commander in Chief, Fleet, for the last time at sea in his present command, led a formation of nine Royal Navy warships into Gibraltar on Friday. The ships, together with vessels of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and aircraft of the Royal Air Force, are exercising this week in the annual national naval exercise "Springrain" in the eastern Atlantic and western Mediterranean.

The ships are the destroyers London (leading and Bristol (rear), and the frigates Ariadne, Euryalus, Minerva, Naiad, Rothsay, Bacchante and Achilles (not in that order). They were joined by the submarines Otus and Sovereign in Gibraltar at the weekend.

## Japan agrees to sanctions if Poland is invaded

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, April 6

Japan, the leading potential donor of economic and technical assistance for the development of Siberia, has agreed to join the Western democracies and impose sanctions against Moscow if the Soviet Union invades Poland.

The warning was issued in Tokyo today when Lord Carrington met Mr Masayoshi Ito, the Japanese Foreign Minister, for talks on Poland. Carrington said he did not think that a Soviet invasion of Poland was imminent but military intervention might become a clear possibility if the situation in Poland deteriorated.

In the case of intervention Britain would support the imposition of economic measures against the Soviet Union, Lord Carrington said. He went on to imply that the threat of sanctions might not deter Moscow if Japan did not support the West.

Mr Ito is reported to have assured Lord Carrington that if Poland was invaded Japan was prepared to impose stricter measures against the Soviet Union than those imposed at the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Earlier this month Soviet officials visited Tokyo in an attempt to persuade the Japanese Export-Import Bank to supply Moscow with financial and technical assistance to develop Siberia's resources and construct a 2,500 mile pipeline to bring natural gas from the Yamal Peninsula in western Siberia to west Europe. Japan is still to decide whether it will help the Soviet Union.

Lord Carrington went on today to claim that the Soviet Union now finds itself confronted with uncertainties in many areas—the difficulties of maintaining its troops in Afghanistan, the strain of providing assistance to Vietnam and now the issue of Poland.

Officials who attended the meeting said Lord Carrington believed these factors might deter the Soviet Union from invading Poland but both West Europe and the United States had left the leadership in Moscow without any doubts of the consequences of intervention.

Turning to Vietnam's military presence in Cambodia, Lord Carrington told Mr Ito that Britain believed that Mr Pol Pot should not remain the focus of resistance in the attempt to drive Vietnamese troops out of the country.

Taking up economic issues during a second round of talks tonight, Lord Carrington is reported to have reminded the Japanese Government that the EEC's huge trade deficit with Japan rose to an all time record of more than \$9,000m (£4,900m) last year.

While Lord Carrington emphasized that he was not representing the EEC in any official capacity he warned Japanese leaders tonight that Japan could no longer concentrate a torrent of exports on narrow and sensitive sectors of the European market.

## TUC threat to cut links if Warsaw Pact invades

By Paul Routledge Labour Editor

British trade union leaders have warned Eastern block embassies, and national trade union centres in East European capitals, that all links will be broken off if the Warsaw Pact countries invade Poland.

The TUC International Committee, in an unusually explicit move yesterday, publicized a message it had sent to union confederations in East Europe conveying support for the Polish independent union federation Solidarity and insisting: "Poland should be left to solve its problems peacefully and free of any external coercion."

This public warning was preceded by private cautions to diplomats in London that the price of any armed incursion into Poland would be an immediate rupture in East-West union contacts, which are highly prized by the Soviet Union and its allies.

The initiative for the warning came yesterday from Mr Tom Jackson, the postal workers' leader, who is chairman of the International Committee. He was supported strongly by Mr Frank Chapple, the electricians' union secretary, and Mr David Basnett, leader of the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

There was no serious dissent, although some union leaders argued that the TUC ought to make approaches to the British Government before going direct to the national union confederations in East Europe. In the event, the committee strongly reaffirmed its support and recognition of Solidarity as an independent and established organization overwhelmingly representative of Polish workers.

If there is outside intervention in the affairs of Poland the continuing exchanges between British and Soviet block unions will be put at risk.

## President given briefings

From Patrick Brogan Washington, April 6

President Reagan is making a good recovery, a week after being shot, according to hospital officials.

He is given regular briefings on matters of national security, the most important at the moment being the situation in Poland. These briefings are given by his staff, and by Vice-President Bush.

Meanwhile, the other men injured in the shooting continue to recover. The most seriously wounded, Mr James Brady, the White House Press Secretary, is making a remarkable recovery from a wound in the head, although doctors say it may be a year before it is known how complete his recovery will be.

Medical risks, page 12

## Mr Trudeau rejects compromise

From John Best Ottawa, April 6

Canada's constitutional impasse appears to have deepened today after Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, refused to meet provincial premiers and withdrew a proposal aimed at breaking a parliamentary deadlock over his Government's patriation plan.

The eight provincial premiers that are opposed to Mr Trudeau's controversial plan to bring home the constitution from Britain announced at the weekend they had negotiated an alternative arrangement.

They also announced that they intend to meet in Ottawa on April 16 to put the finishing touches to the proposition, and ask the Prime Minister to join them at the conference table.

Mr Trudeau's statement suggested, telling reporters he did not take it seriously. He emphatically restated his position in the Commons today. "We will meet with them (the premiers) after we have our constitution in Canada and not before," he told Mr Joe Clark, the Conservative Opposition leader.

Mr Trudeau's statement suggested his Government has decided to smash the procedural obstructions thrown up by the Conservatives and push the constitution plan through Parliament.

The Prime Minister has frequently justified his decision to seek unilateral patriation of the constitution on the ground that the provincial premiers were incapable of reaching a consensus on how it should be done. His own plan, now held up

in Parliament, envisages asking the British Parliament to stretch a bill of rights and an amending formula to the constitution—the British North America Act of 1867—before surrendering control to Canada.

The eight dissenting provinces—out of the 10 in Canada—are proposing an alternative amending formula, and they would leave the bill of rights to be attached after the constitution was based in Canada.

In a weekend interview with *The New York Times* editorial board in New York, Mr Trudeau withdrew an offer he had made to break the stalemate.

He had said his Government would delay final Commons approval of the measure until the Supreme Court of Canada decided on its constitutional validity.



## French Presidential Election

Every candidate feels it incumbent upon him to produce a detailed plan of what he would do about the economy and unemployment. M Marchais produced his today, after the other three main candidates had already done so. He even claimed his was the only clear and straight-forward one.

His plan would be financed in part by a rise in production of 4.5 per cent, partly by "anti-capitalist" reforms. The object of the plan was to create 1.5 million new jobs, and thus reduce the number of unemployed by a million.

The Communist candidate proposed nine measures to achieve this plan. They included a stop to factory closures, industrial reorganization, the stimulation of national production and popular consumption.

He would do this by increasing the minimum wage to 3,300 francs (297) a month, increasing old age pensions, and family allowances, and by exempting two million taxpayers from tax. He would propose a cur in "excessive imports" and the protection of national industries in difficulty; a 35-hour working week without loss of earnings; the suppression of all casual labour, and a professional training programme for young people and adults without skills.

Other Marchais methods include anti-capitalist reforms such as a moratorium on dividends for two years, a levy on all higher incomes and on the profits of banks and finance companies, a 100 per cent tax on non-invested profits, a wealth tax and steps to secure the repatriation of French capital.

Finally, the Communist leader called for the implementation of "green, democratic reforms" like nationalization, worker participation, and increased powers for joint works councils.

A great deal of this would have to be done quickly, soon after his election, he said. It was the condition of success.

## Radical economic reforms proposed by M Marchais

From Charles Hargrove Paris, April 6

Although M Georges Marchais, the Communist candidate, was the first on the starting line for the presidential elections—he began his campaign in mid-October—he shows no obvious signs of wear and tear. It is no small achievement for a man of 60.

At a press conference today he held forth for more than 90 minutes about his economic plan if elected President on May 10, with a blend of seriousness and humour that he combines so well.

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## Mr Haig hints at US help for Israel to maintain military edge in region

From Moshe Brilliant Jerusalem, April 6

Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, talked to government and military leaders here today of helping Israel maintain its military "qualitative edge" in the region after the Reagan Administration delivers sophisticated weapons to Arab countries dedicated to its destruction.

A participant in the discussions said the officials talked in terms of increasing American purchases of Israeli military procurements, in Israel which would boost the country's sophisticated industries. Easier credit terms for Israeli procurements in the United States were also discussed.

Meeting the press outside the Prime Minister's office before he flew to Amman for the third leg of his Middle East tour, Mr Haig protested strongly when a journalist talked of compensating Israel for acquiescing to the supply of sophisticated arms to Saudi Arabia. "I don't like the tone of the term," he scolded.

Mr Haig, striding beside him, added: "I don't think compensation is possible." He explained, "Israel is in a permanent danger and therefore should be strengthened."

Earlier at a closed meeting with officials, Mr Haig told the Israelis there was a place for them in the strategic planning being planned for the region to confront "the growing threat of Soviet imperialism." He acknowledged, according to a participant, that the fact some Arab



Mr Begin and Mr Haig answer reporters' questions.

countries were hostile to Israel created a dilemma. The United States wanted to lose neither those countries nor Israel, he went on.

Israeli officials said later they could live with the American policy, but they did not like it. Mr Begin, who was questioned about the press conference about the proposed sale of Avacs (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft to Saudi Arabia, replied: "It is a very serious threat to Israel and we said so in candour."

Israelis were pleased with Mr Haig's strong denunciation of the Syrian attacks on Christian enclaves in Lebanon.

Summit meeting: The continuing violence in Lebanon and the threat it poses to the stability of the Middle East entered early today as a central issue dominating Mr Haig's first visit to the region

(Christopher Walker writes from Amman).

Soon after he arrived in Amman this afternoon, it was disclosed that an American diplomatic summit to discuss the growing crisis will be held here tomorrow, shortly before the Secretary of State departs for Saudi Arabia on the last leg of his Middle East tour.

An American official told correspondents that Mr John Gunther Dean, the American Ambassador to Lebanon, and Mr Talcut Seelye, the American ambassador to Syria, have been summoned to a meeting with Mr Haig to discuss possible ways of resolving the crisis.

The disclosure was made only hours after Mr Haig issued a tough public statement in Israel in which he condemned Syria's actions as "brutal and unacceptable".

Leading article, page 13



OVERSEAS

# Oil states' cash curbs threaten schools for Palestinian refugees

From Christopher Walker  
Amman, April 6  
United Nations schools for 15,000 Palestinian refugee children in Jordan and Syria are threatened with permanent closure at the end of next month because of the refusal of most oil-rich Arab states to meet the \$25m (£11m) budget deficit facing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).  
For political reasons, most Arab governments have refused to increase their total contribution to UNRWA's budget. Their contribution stands at about 6 per cent, only slightly more than that contributed by Britain alone. In addition, Libya has failed to provide \$5m which it pledged in 1979.  
"As far as the Arab leaders are concerned, the West is responsible for the Palestinian problem because it created the state of Israel," explained Mr John Tanner, UNRWA's director in Jordan. "Therefore they insist that the West should pay for it."  
Because of the present cash crisis, UNRWA submitted unsuccessful requests for Arab aid to the Amman summit last November, to the Islamic summit in Saudi Arabia earlier this year, and to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Earlier, a suggestion that the refugees' education should be subsidized by a small levy on Middle East oil was turned down by the producing nations. Although UNRWA has been a financial difficulties before, the present deficit is the most serious faced in its 30-year history.  
Notices for the 5,000 Palestinian teachers at the schools in Syria and Jordan have already been printed, ready for distribution in three weeks time if there is no sudden inflow of funds.  
The impending closure of the schools and other economy measures, including a halving of the four ration for refugees, has led to increasing tension between UNRWA's small international staff and its Palestinian employees. In Jordan, the 12 foreign employees have been advised to take special security precautions.  
The anger felt by the local Palestinians is directed not at the Arab states, but at the main Western governments who have provided a number of reasons for not providing higher contributions to UNRWA's total budget of \$231m. These have included the recession, domestic inflation and the prevailing political climate.  
Attacking the closure plan, the general committee of the 725,000 refugees in Jordan said in an angry statement: "Britain was the midwife which attended at the birth of the state, and it was Britain which facilitated, during its 30 years of mandate in Palestine, the establishment of the state of Israel." In Syria, *Al Baath*, the paper of the ruling party, described the decision to shut the schools as "an imperialist-American scheme".  
The refusal of the Arab states to bail UNRWA out has angered many Western governments, who feel that they already contribute enough. This feeling was reinforced when, in response to a recent appeal, America contributed an extra \$10m while Saudi Arabia, one of only two Arab governments which responded, offered \$5m.  
In spite of official warnings delivered to Syria and Jordan about the threatened closure of the schools, both governments have refused to enter into any negotiations with the United Nations about the possibility of taking over the school structure in the refugee camps.  
In a recent memorandum, Mr Olof Rydbeck, the Swedish Commissioner-General of UNRWA, gave a warning that the closing of facilities for the 175,000 children could have grave consequences in the middle East. The implications go beyond the humanitarian, he stated. "They raise very serious questions for the stability of the area."

## American 'Green Berets' to support Liberian leader

Washington, April 6.—The Reagan Administration has ordered a show of military support for the Government of Liberia in an effort to maintain it in office and to fend off offers of military aid from Libya, according to a State Department official.  
A Pentagon official said that 100 soldiers from the Special Forces, better known as the "Green Berets", and a missile-launching destroyer were intended to persuade Master Sergeant Doe to take United States interest as genuine.  
You're dealing with a sergeant," the spokesman said. "He'll take us more seriously than a military dimension our aid."  
While the United States has stated no one was waiting to top Sergeant Doe from power, a spokesman said the Administration would be confronted with an unknown if he fell.  
"Sergeant Doe came to power in a coup a year ago," the spokesman said that he had made soundings about sending military advisers to Liberia but that the United States had persuaded President Doe not to accept them. Libya has recently sent forces into the central African state of Chad, and the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, has indicated his intention to spread his influence further.  
A Pentagon official said that the United States had not seen Cuban military advisers in Liberia but noted that Cuba was trying to set up a diplomatic mission there. Cuban, East German and Soviet military advisers have spread across Africa in recent years.  
The Special Forces unit is due to arrive in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, next Friday, two days before the anniversary of Sergeant Doe's coup for 30 days of training beside Liberian troops, a Pentagon official said.  
The destroyer, the 7,800-ton *Thorn*, is due to arrive on several days. Pentagon officials said that Liberians ended to look for unrest on anniversaries.—  
New York Times News Service.

## 0 drown when Brazilian drought ends

Our Correspondent  
Sao Paulo, April 6  
Ten days of non-stop rain has ended the driest year in the history of Brazil's east, drowning at least 30 people, and making 50,000 homeless.  
In Recife at the weekend, 12,000 (£545m) programme the region this year.  
The proposal is that the 1,866-mile-long Francisco River, one of Brazil's largest, should be dammed over its watershed into the basins of rivers to the north which now dry up.

## Assam official dies in bomb explosion

Delhi, April 6.—A senior civil servant was killed today when a bomb exploded in his office in India's troubled north eastern state of Assam.  
Mr E. S. Parthasarathi, administrative head of Upper Assam, was in his office in Jorhat, Town, the Press Trust of India reported.  
More than 290 people have been killed during a 19-month-old campaign in Assam against illegal immigration, mostly from Bangladesh. Another bomb explosion last night damaged a pipeline about 90 miles from the Assam capital of Gauhati.—  
Reuter.

# lacks given fresh hope with 12½ acres of low-quality land, a pack of seeds, a few tools and some fertiliser

## tribal land pressures force Zimbabwe to step up resettlement pace

u. Zimbabwe has changed dramatically since Mr Robert Mugabe took power. Until then, he and his five children had lived in a small, dilapidated hut in a central Zimbabwean town, one of the most densely populated of the country and one which was most severely affected by the war.  
Now, in the middle of last year, he was selected from more than 3,000 applicants to move to former white farmland which had been purchased by Government as part of its resettlement programme.  
He built himself a house, sowed maize and vegetables, and began preparing a larger area of land on which to plant more crops for the next planting season.  
Madan is still desperate, but for the first time in his life he has hope. He no longer needs to be fed by the state. "I will be able to support myself," he said. "I was not able to in the tribal trust land," he said.  
Madan is one of 528 peasant farmers to have been resettled on former white



A man dashes across a street in Beirut dividing a Christian neighbourhood from a Muslim district of the Lebanese capital.

## Intervention risk increases as Lebanon fighting continues

From Tewfik Mishlawi  
Beirut, April 6  
The chances of foreign intervention in the Lebanon increased today as heavy fighting between Syrian troops and the Arab Deterrence Force (ADF), and Lebanese right-wing militias in Beirut and the Roman Catholic town of Zabl, 30 miles to the east, went into its sixth day.  
President Elias Sarkis ordered another ceasefire today, but the fighting started last week. Mr Sarkis is the supreme commander of the ADF and commander-in-chief of the Lebanese armed forces, both of which have been embroiled in the fighting.  
The Lebanese leader conferred on the telephone today with his Syrian counterpart, President Assad, who is sending Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, his Foreign Minister, to Beirut tomorrow to attempt to stop the fighting, which has already left 160 people dead and more than 500 wounded.  
The battles took a turn for the worse in the past 24 hours with reports that long-range artillery shells were falling on areas in the mountains Christian enclave which have hitherto been relatively quiet.  
The Lebanese leftist coalition, known as the National Movement, also declared total mobilization "to fight the battle of destiny" against the Christian right-wing forces. The predominantly Muslim coalition has been an ally of Syria and the Palestinians in Lebanon.  
Mr Vassir Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, has also announced his movement had taken "important measures to deal with the 'Israeli schemes in Lebanon'." He did not say what these measures were.  
Israeli aircraft flew over Beirut today, invading a barrage of anti-aircraft fire from Palestinian and National Movement positions. The gesture was apparently a warning of a possible Israeli intervention if the Syrians continued the shelling of Christian areas.

Israel, one of the countries most concerned about events in Lebanon, has already said it would not stand idly by watching "the Syrians murder the Lebanese Christians."  
Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, who held talks with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem yesterday, said before leaving for Jordan, that his country viewed the "brutality of the Syrian action against the Christian enclave as a very, very serious turn of events, which is unacceptable by any measure of appropriate international standards of conduct." He said that the consequences of a failure to return to a ceasefire were "of course, most, most serious".  
This is the strongest condemnation of the Syrian action in Lebanon to come from the United States. Mr Haig also said that this action might have been a "diversion ordered by the Soviets to draw attention away from maniacs the Soviets were contemplating in Poland".  
President Giscard d'Estaing of France, who had earlier appealed to President Assad of Syria for restraint and moderation, is sending an emissary on a fact-finding mission to Lebanon to assess the situation.

more than a few hundred—would mean not only a violation of Yugoslavia's federal constitutional order, but in the long run, the beginning of the country's disintegration.  
"We have decided to ease the present emergency measures and normalize life in the region through political means and activity," Mr Dolanc said. Yugoslavia would not be shy of using all the means at its disposal to deal with anyone who, in whatever way, might threaten the nation's integrity, independence and non-alignment.  
The suggestion, which has been made by several other leading Yugoslavs, about the link-up between the organizers of the demonstrations in Kosovo and emigrants returning from pro-Soviet opponents and extremists on the other side was emphasized once more by Mr Dolanc.  
Although of different ideological views, they were united by a joint interest to weaken and destabilize Yugoslavia.  
Altogether 33 demonstrators have been arrested, and many more were detained for questioning and later released.

## Pakistan hopes for US military aid brighten

From Hassan Akhtar  
Islamabad, April 6  
Pakistan will resume ministerial-level talks with the United States Government later this month to seek a new basis for what it calls a "mutually satisfactory and durable relationship."  
Mr Asghar Shahi, the Foreign Minister, will visit Washington on April 20 at the invitation of Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State.  
The official statement about Mr Shahi's visit to Washington came today amid strong speculation that General Zia ul-Haq's regime has secured a sympathetic response from the Reagan Administration to Pakistan's military and economic requirements. This is partly because of the growing concern for security in the Gulf and the presence of more than 80,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.  
There have been claims that the United States and Pakistan have struck a secret deal already, but this was vehemently denied by the Pakistan Foreign Ministry a few days ago. However, it did confirm that negotiations for economic aid and military purchases from the United States had been going on for some time.  
Pakistan Government leaders have recently been talking of the need to strengthen the country militarily, and today General Zia told parliament that the Government was determined to provide necessary equipment to the armed forces.  
Former senior army officers have been giving lectures on radio and television emphasizing the military superiority of Pakistan's two immediate neighbours, India and Afghanistan, which are both getting direct Soviet military support.  
American reports of the imminent White House response to Pakistani requirements has caused an uproar in India. The Indian Foreign Minister is due to have talks in Washington on this issue only a few days before Mr Shahi's arrival.  
The PRA was associated militarily with the United States for about 16 years, but felt cheated by Washington during the fighting with India in 1965 and 1971.  
When Pakistan insists on a more satisfactory and durable relationship, it is emphasizing the necessity for firm American guarantees against any recurrence of the old American attitude towards Pakistan, where India is concerned.  
It is also implied that the new relationship should not be a new constitution of debtors and creditors, but a new partnership with the West, to secure military protection against Soviet and Indian threats, has been growing not only in official circles but also in right-wing newspapers and among right-wing leaders. The recent drive against left-wingers, including the Pakistan People's Party, seems to have removed all visible signs of opposition to this swing to the West.

## Party man dies in Uganda jail

From Charles Harrison  
Nairobi, April 6  
Mr George Bakulumpagi Wamala, publicity secretary of the Uganda Patriotic Movement, has died of injuries in a military prison after being arrested in Kampala last week.  
His associates said in Kampala today.  
He was among a number of members of opposition parties arrested and allegedly tortured after guerrilla attacks in the Kampala area. Mr Yoweri Museveni, president of the Uganda Patriotic Movement is leading the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA), one of the main guerrilla groups.  
The PRA today claimed to have ambushed three military vehicles about 30 miles from Kampala, and to have killed 46 Ugandan and Tanzanian soldiers. A spokesman said the troops had been sent to ambush a PRA guerrilla force, but were themselves ambushed instead.  
The Government-owned *Uganda Times* reported today that guerrillas armed with sophisticated weapons were operating in Bugere country, miles from Kampala. Government forces were trying to track them down.

## Eleven killed in week of Yugoslav protests

From Dassa Trevisan  
Belgrade, April 6  
Eleven people were killed, among them two security officers, and 57 were injured during demonstrations by Albanian nationalists in the south-eastern Yugoslav province of Kosovo, the protests began last week and continued for several days despite an official state of emergency.  
The authorities have been taken by surprise by the violence. The effective organization behind the protests has been frankly admitted by Mr Stane Dolanc, a senior Yugoslav leader, who is a member of the Communist Party Presidium.  
During a press conference here today, he left no doubt that it would take a long time for confidence to return to the region, which had obviously been seriously shaken by the Albanian protests.  
But he confirms that once the present emergency measures have been lifted and calm was fully restored, the country would continue to seek political means for resolving the crisis.  
Nevertheless the demand for an independent Kosovo republic, which was raised by the demonstrators who Mr Dolanc insisted could be counted at no

## Former teacher hanged

From Our Correspondent  
Islamabad, April 6  
A 26-year-old former school teacher was hanged today by the Pakistani Government for superior courts from interfering with military courts' proceedings and orders. His petition for a reprieve had also been rejected by President Zia ul-Haq.  
The other young men, described as Mr Ghias's accomplices, will be hanged on Thursday. Mr Ghias's hanging was watched by four Lahore reporters.

## 1,000 Thai Muslims flee to Malaysia

From M. G. G. Pillai  
Kuala Lumpur, April 6  
About 1,000 Muslim refugees, believed to be the victims of a confrontation between Thai pimps and Muslim purists, have fled into the southern Malaysian state of Perlis and Kedah from across the southern Thai border.  
The United Nations High Commission for Refugees has begun registering them, but the move poses no strain on official resources here since most of the refugees are staying with relatives.  
Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohamad, the Deputy Prime Minister, said the refugees would not be turned back until Malaysia was convinced that their safety was assured. However, he emphasized that this "humanitarian gesture" did not mean that Malaysia had changed its policy to treat the refugees as illegal immigrants and to employ the full force of the law to prevent them settling, the Deputy Prime Minister said.  
There has always been free movement of people along the border, but the present flow into Malaysia is unusual. The refugees say they have been harassed by communist terrorists and by men "in Thai Army uniform".  
One cause for the fear among the Thai refugees is that they may consider themselves targets for retaliation against the increased activity by Muslim separatist groups in southern Thailand.  
These separatist groups had until recently confined their activities to the eastern states of southern Thailand, but now

they are also operating in the western states.  
Travellers say that the south-western Thai towns of Haadai and Songkhla, which used to attract large numbers of tourists from Malaysia and Singapore, have lost considerable business because of the terrorist activities.  
The Muslim groups have warned the operators of massage parlours and hotels that they will be considered targets if they continue to provide sexual services for their clients. The threats have been reinforced by sporadic bomb attacks.  
Malaysian officials believe that the pimps and gangsters, who are losing a lucrative income because of the separatists, may have retaliated, causing the present Muslim migration into Malaysia.

## Co-princes in war of Andorran air waves

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, April 6  
A radio war has broken out in the tiny principality of Andorra in the Pyrenees between the Council of the Valleys, the Parliament of the principality, and its two co-princes, the President of France and the Spanish bishop of Seo de Urgel in the province of Lerida.  
The battle is over control of the two radio stations in its territory: the French Sud-radio, controlled by Sotirad, a holding company set up by the French Government, which also controls Radio Monte Carlo and Europe Number One, and the Spanish Radio Andorra, which is under the control of the Spanish state company Eirasa.  
On Thursday, the two stations were ordered to stop broadcasting because of the failure of the co-princes to ratify a new protocol of agreement between them and the principality turning over ownership of the stations to the council.  
The two stations are important to France and Spain. Sud-radio covers a large area of south-west France, broadcasts in French, and has about a million and a half listeners. Radio Andorra broadcasts mainly in French, but also in Catalan and Spanish. It has about a million listeners.  
This Lilliputian international crisis is therefore bigger than it looks. Sud-radio has the highest transmitter in Europe, on the Pic Blanc, at an altitude of 8,700 ft. Radio Andorra broadcasts from Encamp.  
A protocol signed in 1961 between the principality and Sotirad and Eirasa gave them the right to run the two stations for 20 years, but specified that after that they would revert to Andorra.  
Recently, the Council of the Valleys warned the two co-princes that the 20-year concession would not be renewed, and that the prefect of the Pyrenees Orientales and the bishop's delegate, but the French and Spanish Governments insisted on some modifications of the text which had the effect of acknowledging Andorran control but not ownership.  
After four days of discussion therefore, the council decided to order the two stations to suspend broadcasting, and threatened to resign if the new protocol were not adopted.  
Radio Andorra complied immediately and ceased to broadcast on Thursday evening. Sud-radio, however, defied the order and a ballast was sent up to the Pic Blanc on Friday morning to order it to close down.  
In the meantime, Sotirad has lodged an appeal with the two co-princes, in accordance with the ancient procedure of the principality. Its programmes were broadcast normally at the weekend. Radio Andorra, for its part, appealed to the Council of the Valleys; but the appeal has not yet been heard.  
There is a sense of stalemate. In the past 20 years Andorra has emerged from the Middle Ages into the consumer society of the end of the twentieth century. It enjoys an unprecedented tourist boom.  
Every day 10,000 visitors come and buy goods tax free from what is the largest supermarket in Europe.  
The tiny state is also a tax paradise, and is the official residence of 22,000 foreigners. There are only 8,000 native Andorrans. Yet the Government of the state remains archaic, and young Andorran intellectuals, who have studied in Montpellier, Toulouse or Barcelona, are increasingly impatient of it.  
The co-princes do not challenge the tutelage of the two co-princes, which is the basis of their country's independence and prosperity; but they want control of radio stations, and a statute after the pattern of Luxembourg for broadcasting.

## Negative side to political system, Mr Mugabe says

From Stephen Taylor  
Salisbury, April 6  
The constitution drafted for Zimbabwe at the Lancaster House talks had unduly limited and qualified the powers of Parliament, Mr Robert Mugabe said in the House of Assembly today.  
Addressing the opening of a seminar here organized by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Prime Minister said the restrictions applied particularly to Parliament's power to amend the constitution. It fettered "the right of the people to make such amendments as the majority might consider desirable".  
The constitution was agreed by all parties at the talks after weeks of negotiation.  
Mr Mugabe told MPs and delegates from Britain, India and Tanzania that when a unanimous vote was required for change, an individual could hold the nation to ransom. But he added that, though the limitations might "frustrate the realization of the popular will", the Government was committed to uphold the constitution.  
The Prime Minister referred obliquely to the "crisis of expectations" among Zimbabwe's majority.  
He said people found it hard to accept that the prices of basic commodities had to go up "in the era of the people's power". Similarly, some had not understood why the Government had called for reconciliation among groups that had been in conflict.

## Nicholas Ashford, The Times Southern Africa correspondent, looks at Zimbabwe's agricultural revolution in the second of six articles about the country a year after independence.

time the Government's emergency feeding programme ends this month. "Although most people planned late I think they should have just enough food to see them through this year," Mr Chidawanyika said.  
The land is not of a very good quality, which explains why most of the white farmers were only too happy to sell to the Government. Most of it will be used for commercial grazing. "What we need now is more cattle," Mr Madan said.  
Mr Madan has been appointed vice-chairman of a committee which has been set up to allow the "settlers", as they are called, to discuss problems of common interest such as the location of schools and a planned rural service centre and to liaise with Mr Chidawanyika. Mr Chidawanyika regards this committee as providing a basis for a co-operative approach to peasant farming on the Guru scheme.  
The question of land settlement is probably the most im-

portant issue facing Mr Robert Mugabe's Government and was one of the main themes of last month's aid donors' conference which raised over £630m towards development projects in Zimbabwe.  
Mr Mugabe told the conference that the existence of impoverished, overpopulated tribal areas was the "ugly side of our so-called dual economy—a sort of colony within a colony".  
Well over four million Zimbabweans live in the tribal areas which comprise just over 40 per cent of the land area. In many areas the soil is poor, rainfall irregular and the land has been eroded because of overgrazing.  
The land question was at the heart of the guerrilla war which preceded Zimbabwe's independence and Mr Mugabe is aware that his Government's success or failure will ultimately depend on the way it handles the land question.  
The man responsible for land resettlement is Dr Sydney Sekeramayi, Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rural Development. He is a young doctor who spent a number of years in Sweden before returning to Zimbabwe last year.  
Since he took office about 1,500 families have been resettled on just under 300,000 acres of former white land. This may not sound very impressive but, as Dr Sekeramayi pointed out, "we were really starting from scratch. No-one had any first-hand knowledge about how to proceed with land redistribution."  
The settlement programme will be speeded up this year. A total of over four and a half million acres of former white land is now on offer to the Government on which it is hoped some 20,000 families can be settled.  
One of the main constraints has been money. In order not to undermine the viability of the commercial farming sector the Government has been acquiring land on a "willing seller, willing buyer" basis. At an average of about £10 an acre a lot of money is needed, although this should now be forthcoming in view of the success of the donors' conference.  
Another constraint has been lack of equipment. The Department of Lands has only a handful of tractors, lorries and bul-

dozers at its disposal. "We really can't get on very fast until we have more equipment," a senior government official commented. Some vehicles have been promised by aid donors but they have yet to arrive.  
Dr Sekeramayi is determined to continue acquiring land through purchase rather than requisition. But what will happen when there are no more willing sellers? "This is not an immediate problem," he said, "but we are considering such possibilities as a ceiling on the amount of land people can own or possibly a land tax. But all options are conditional on the terms of the constitution agreed at Lancaster House."  
The minister's pragmatic approach extends to the question of cooperatives and collective farms, a concept which has been a failure in the commercial farming sector.  
He said it was not the Government's intention to compel anyone to join cooperatives or collectives but he hoped, for instance, that peasant farmers might come to realize that such systems would help them when it came to seeking credit, marketing their produce or buying in bulk. "But we are not going to force this on people," he added.  
Next: the white farmers.

Bus crash kills 21  
Jakarta, April 6.—Twenty-one people were killed and 32 injured when an inter-city passenger bus crashed in Cianjur, 75 miles south east of here.

Bogotá goes dry  
Bogotá, April 6.—A breakdown at a water purification plant left Bogotá, a city of five million people, without drinking water all day yesterday.







Fashion by Suzy Menkes

Photographs by Harry Kerr

## The London Collections

For the first time since the 1960s British fashion has hit a winning streak. A new mood of confidence and certainty swelled among the leading designers during last week's London fashion showings.

The spark was ignited as Vivienne Westwood's swashbuckling pirates burst on to the stage in a flash of fireworks and a puff of smoke. Her ringleted models, with their gilded lips, frilled smock shirts and baggy breeches, embodied the romantic theme of the London collections at its most youthful, extrovert and joyous.

The same sense of fun, but with more elegant and restrained clothes, stalked the catwalks all week. Britain is not as strong on sportswear as our European counterparts, but women will like the softened-up sporty line which comes from exchanging classic ankle-length trousers for knee breeches. They are the key to next autumn's dressing.

The three-quarter length tunic, cut in a full-smock shape by Roland Klein or Jean Muir, is another important look, shown with the cropped trousers or with a slim skirt. The effect, especially when the tunics are made in rich fabrics or appliqued with suede or leather, is of a renaissance

courtier (matching hose and buckled footwear de rigueur).

London is now the evening capital of the world, with the ball gown sweeping all before it (especially for the American market) and with a strong return to formal dressing. This mostly means those breeches again, in taffeta, velvet or moire worn with soft blouses frilled at the neck, or with enormous bows.

Other designers prefer to make their Fortuny's. The maestro of the pleat is recalled in many collections, from Zandra Rhodes' gilded fans of pleats, to Yuki's rainbow-coloured circles.

Colours are rich russet browns, deep fir green, ruby red, peacock blue, with a wash of gold and bronze throughout. The effect is nothing like the earthy, back-to-nature tones of the ethnic era but rather of a renaissance fresco brought to life. Paisley is the print of the season.

Fashion is all about capturing a mood and encapsulating it in clothes that women want to wear. I believe that London has caught that fashion feeling and the autumn collections will mark a turning point in the tides of our wardrobes. I hope that it can do the same for our fashion industry as a whole.

### Vivienne Westwood



An electric atmosphere usually experienced only at Kenzo Takada's Paris shows filled the Pillar Hall at Olympia, where fans of the New Romantic wave in pop music vied with press and buyers to see Vivienne Westwood's show.

Although ostensibly for autumn, most of the clothes were cotton and many are currently on sale in the World's End shop. The theme is of devil-may-care pirates who count



among their booty lavish broderie anglaise trimmings, buckled tapestry boots and odd baggy-bottom trousers (for tucking gold coins away?). The cut is more subtle than first appears, with complicated (and cheeky) nappy-wrapped skirts and slashed sleeves. Behind the vulgarity (T-shirts with rouleaux of fabric sprouting like bean shoots from the breasts) is a creative exuberance which will be felt throughout the industry.

### Jean Muir



Jean Muir breaks new ground gently, like a reluctant swimmer testing the water with one toe. She need not be so reticent about moving away from the familiar fluid dresses which have become her hallmark, for with everything, from suede to tweed, she has a sure touch. I could have looked at many more of her English Lady tweeds, all easy, edge-to-edge and collarless for both suits and coats.



Three striking Miro patterned artist's smocks were apparently just testing, for they disappeared before we could take in the burst of colour and volume among the skinny and sombre dresses (mostly swinging just a few inches above the ankle.)

Jean Muir works suede with infinite skill into loose coat dresses, with a frilled neckline as her one concession to romance. The suedes come in clear colours — raspberry pink, cobalt blue and grass green — or are printed with flat flowers.

Culottes in holly berry red or ivy green should light up Christmas parties as effectively as Jean Muir's matt black suede trimmed with silver and gold leather.



### Zandra Rhodes

Zandra Rhodes fuelled her outrageous reputation with sequinned G-strings, liquorice black vinyl-with-lace dresses and a velvet dress decorated with gilded fans as breastplates and sporran.

She really makes ravishingly pretty Cinderella dresses of printed chiffon, sashed in fondant colours and decorated with the tiniest of pearls. The same beaded effect appears on her cloud soft pleated evening knitwear, surely the most chic cardigans in the world.

Sunburst circles of pleats in cloth-of-gold lame look newer than the chiffon crinolines. Fresher still is Zandra's use of black velvet, sculptured into Elizabethan evening dresses set on a corse like a swimsuit.

Zandra's glamorous dresses are subtly sensual, with fine curtains of net drawn across the upper bosom or necklines dipping in a deep cowl at the back. Her detailing is superb, like the flower shaped panniers at the hips of a ball gown or whorls of pleats like a conch shell on the shoulders.

### Janice Wainwright & Roland Klein



Like two Rolls Royces purring along without a break in the engine heat, Janice Wainwright and Roland Klein both turn out better and better collections each season.

Both showed breeches, Janice's on a renaissance page-boy silhouette with neat waisted jacket and knee breeches, Klein with the softest of satin pantaloons shown with lacy camisole tops, like some naughty nineties post card.

Klein shows his French origins with his marvellous tailoring, seen at its best in seven-eighths tunics over slim skirts, and in his carefully thought-out use of colour and pattern. Daytime colour themes, like coffee and cream or mandarin orange with milk chocolate, are elaborated at



night into rich crimson and gold paisleys or maharajah mixes of deep blue and gold. Janice Wainwright's colour palette is more sombre, although she also uses a Paisley print for a stunning quilted satin jacket in a controlled peasant look.

Her collection is carefully orchestrated from the simplest of outfits in crepe with appliques to the most sumptuous ruffled taffetas in topaz, bois de rose or black.

Fashion aficionados say of both Janice Wainwright and Roland Klein that they lack the creativity that brings the absolute triumph and the embarrassing disasters. I consider producing consistently lovely and wearable clothes a positive asset.

## The Paris Collections



### Montana

Fidelity may not be a traditional French virtue, but in an economic crisis and an election year fashion designers prefer to return to their old loves. Kenzo's affair with the pretty peasant girl has already lasted a decade and in a dazzling pretty show he showed off her newest clothes. There are soft Paisley-printed wool skirts, boldly flowered knits and velvet, knobby Irish tweed and a flurry of high-necked frilled blouses.

Kenzo's newest silhouette is the mini-skirt peeping out from under a seven-eighths jacket, especially effective in a pepper and salt tweed with a bright checkerboard knitted skirt. His colour palette is otherwise strong and bright with combinations like hot pink and jade green for flower-printed velvet jackets and ruffled paper-taffeta dresses.

Montana seems to be in love with the opera. His marvellously theatrical show was awash with embroidered velvet, lacy collars, swashbuckling brocade capes and evening gowns like a Queen of Hearts come to life.

All was romance and richness, with lavish use of suede and leather, as well as some interesting Celtic looks for tweed tunics with ankle-cuffed trousers.

Behind the spectacular presentations and extraordinary headwear (jester's caps and medieval wimples for Montana and lacquered fans of hair at Thierry Mugler) is a choice of two fashion looks for next winter: short skirts for the young and leggy and a revival of the big full skirt for everyone else.

The two themes appeared side by side at Chloe, where designer Karl Lagerfeld clearly expects the wife to wear his mid-calf full-skirted coat dresses (often slit open over trousers) and the mistress to step out in short leather minis topped by cape-collared knits.

This schizophrenic collection produced some delicious clothes, like the swirling scarlet and gold embroidered grey flannel dresses that started the show and lavishly-embroidered mini tunics. But the dual message will leave many women confused.

The return of the big silhouette is a strong story all over Paris (like Ungaro's huge highwayman's cape over a full artist's smock). In general the volume comes on the long clothes and the mini lengths are



### Chloe



### Kenzo



### Best of the rest

There were fashion comebacks for both Japanese-born Yuki and for John Bates, both of whom seemed constrained by their backers' choice of fabrics.

Yuki's extraordinary cutting skills triumphed over some very old colouring (sunny pleats in banana yellow with sky blue) and his scarlet and black mini-dresses were a definite misjoke. But Fortuny would have been impressed by the pleated ruff on an embroidered velvet dressing gown of a coat and in the mufurging pleated chiffon evening dresses.

John Bates found himself in the dying moments of his show

with a splendid bridal outfit of white man jodhpurs. Clearly this British Raj jodhpurs and Paisley is a more fruitful fashion seam than the Indian gold coins away?.

Ann Buck did good things with bronzed leather breeches and bobby hand knits before losing the thread among her little jersey frocks. Murray Arbeid showed the rest of London how to make the swelling, swirling shape of a ball gown, even though Bruce Oldfield and Victor Edelstein are treading on the heels of his glass slippers.



**FARAH** Stacks

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# The memory man, still happily setting the record straight

Sir Harold Wilson bounces back on the coup that never was... and the obsessions of Tony Benn

Sir Harold Wilson bounced back into the headlines last week after a spell of ill health. He was on form, setting the record straight about Lord Louis Mountbatten and the "Fleet Street coup". "I didn't hear about it until much later", he told me.

The return was in one of Sir Harold's favourite guises: the memory man of the music hall who will answer random challenges from the audience, beginning, where possible, with the phrase: "It was at the Blackpool Conference in 1959..."

His memory is one of the best known aspects of his personality. The intimates of Sir Harold's life are better known than those of any individual outside the Royal Family. His pipe, his wife Mary, his dry Yorkshire wit played on a flat accent, his dog Paddy, his secret preference for brandy and cigars, his bungalow in the Scillies, all contribute to the Wilson image.

There is nothing artificial about his public face, although some of his ways are studied and, by now, he does little unwittingly. He drops in lines about putting money behind the clock on the mantelpiece or shopping at the Co-op which have seldom had much to do with his life style. Yet, for all his vanities, he is held in affection like an irritating but long-lasting character in a television soap opera, the Ena Sharples of Downing Street.

His passion for keeping a true record of events is best illustrated in his acting notes about his two administrations. *The Labour Government 1964-70* and *Final Term: The Labour Government 1974-76*. More evidence is published next month in *The Chariot of Israel*—the title came from his wife, a clergyman's daughter—a reply, through appraisal of the relations between Britain, America and Israel, (Sir Harold is safest on personal memories. A. J. P. Taylor's review of *The Governance of Britain* simply listed the facts and errors.)

"I planned the Israel book while writing the boring narrative of the last Number 10 book, *Final Term*," said Sir Harold.

"I have always been interested in Israel and, as Abba Eban will tell you, I am considered one of its best friends. I have a lot of knowledge about the Six Day War, which hasn't been published before."

Sir Harold's memory was largely inherited from his father. "He could multiply any two numbers in seconds. That is how I met Mary. I was doing what is now called A levels, cramming *Hamlet* and *Dr Faustus*. My father said he could multiply any two numbers and another man had bet five bob that he couldn't. I was going along to see fair play."

"We passed a tennis court on the way and I saw this pretty girl playing tennis—it was Mary—and I thought, what is life all about, Shakespeare and Faustus or pretty girls playing tennis? The following Saturday I hung up my running spikes and bought a tennis racket. A week later I told Mary that I was going to marry her and become an MP. She laughed and said she had better get used to it."

Young Harold Wilson, armed with his father's quick brain, made precocious progress through local state schools in Huddersfield and the Wirral, achieving a place to Jesus College, Oxford, where he achieved the highest first class degree in PPE of his year. A don at 21, he soon lost the academic life.

My father had just lost his job and he wrote to the editor of *The Manchester Guardian*. They wanted me to come in and move on to writing leaders. But in the meantime I was offered a post with Beveridge

on his staff and Crozier (the *Guardian* editor) wrote back saying, by all means join Beveridge for a couple of years. You will be worth that much more to *The Guardian*. But I never did go back. The war started two years later."

And so he became a civil servant in the wartime coalition, working on the foundations of the welfare state. In 1945, he was elected Labour MP for Ormskirk. He has sat in the House of Commons since 1950 for Hutton—ever since, and seldom off the front benches.

His rise was swift, from being made President of the Board of Trade and a Privy Councillor by Attlee in 1947 when he was 31, to his election as Labour leader on Hugh Gaitskell's death in 1963. In October 1964 a slim victory over Sir Alec Douglas-Home was the beginning of a period of British politics dominated by his presence and his years in office have made him the longest serving post-war Prime Minister this century.

In 1976 his resignation came as a surprise and a source of great speculation. "Having lost, I wanted to get back any way and then I wanted to retire on my 60th birthday, which I did, almost to the day, except in that week there were by-elections, so I stayed until the week after."

It was a very closely guarded secret. About four people knew: me, Mary, Lady Falkender, who was really rather against it, and Mr Speaker. But Mr Speaker, the October before, when in the House, there was some murmuring at the announcement, I said to Mr Speaker: "I told you some time ago" and

he agreed. *Hansard* spotted it and recorded him agreeing."

As ever, Sir Harold likes to keep the record straight. Now, heading for retirement at the next election—he was 64 last month—he looks back on his 13 turbulent years as leader of the Labour Party without reminiscence.

Relieved from the pressures of power, he has lost the urgent suspicion which often seemed to guide his actions. Sir Harold is generous and unguarded, quite happy to talk over old times. He has even forgiven the press, who gave him a rougher ride than any Prime Minister before. He might have had the right to expect.

The harsh press criticism was only one element which was hostile to his efforts. Other forces may again prove obstructive to Labour. "The fixed currency, above all, is the way that they prevent a Labour government from carrying out its programme. The Bank of England, the Treasury say, if you do this there will be a run on sterling. Of course, the people who made the dash to freedom away from this Treasury orthodoxy were Ted Heath and Barber. At that time it was against the rules and I doubt whether a Labour government would have been allowed to do it."

"If the Conservatives are thought likely to lose the next election, they would be a run on the pound in the wake of Michael Foot's government. They would think that Michael didn't know anything about the exchange rate. That is why Peter Shore is so important, saying the right things and doing the right things. We are seen as almost an orthodox party in comparison with what the Conservatives have done and are doing."

Sir Harold kept the party together for 13 years, a feat which today sounds less the modest boast it seemed when he resigned in 1976. Now he is unhappy about the state of the party and the formation of the Social Democrats. "It stems from the loss of the election and the growth of the 'cowboys'. The Labour Party has got out of the way



of losing elections. We are now the natural party of government. I had it, of course, in 1970-74 when we had carelessly lost an election. "I have watched the last three conferences on television and the spectators see more. What appalled me were those clenched fists at the end. This is a relatively new manifestation, driving people from the party. The dear old ladies who write the addresses at election time they are the ones to worry about. Some of them have been driven out in tears."

"These cowboys are absolute Trots. The number of Communists in the party is very small but the Trots are much more sinister. They are negative and have no policy. There is a fairly high number of—not intelligent but let's say intelligentia element there, stemming not

least from the growth of sociology as a discipline in the universities."

He dares Mr Tony Benn with faint praise. "He was a very good Postmaster General, all those coloured stamps, still going well. Tony's obsessed with shop stewards. That is why he liked planning agreements, because they would be run by shop stewards."

"We were having a shadow cabinet meeting and I asked for any other business. There was a deep sigh because we knew Tony would have something. And he said, I have just attended a meeting of the Bristol Aerospace workers. I think it was, and they just passed a resolution saying that they should have the right to sack the management at a week's notice. I said, why should they have a week? Why

nobody should have anything unless everybody can have it. And anyway, the other, positive, half of freedom is much more important. There is a freedom which not only takes no account of material circumstances but which even ignores the imposition of the worst and most cruel form of incarceration or slavery. Those Indian pavement-dwellers into whose open, unroofed, unsheltered eyes I gazed in Calcutta; that German rabbi who, immersed by his Nazi concentration-camp captors in a vat of human excrement and laughingly invited to say a prayer, began it 'My brothers'; that victim of Soviet evil who told his captors 'You have taken from me my family, my home, my work, my friends, my liberty, my possessions—now there is nothing more you can take, and I am free, while you are in prison for ever'; these men demonstrated that that over-riding, complex, mysterious, the most important principle in the world: that stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage. The ultimate freedom, the truly—indeed literally—vital one, is found within, not without, and an unemployed man, if he can find it, is freer than any millionaire who cannot."

But that is only half the problem with the letter-writers of whom I have spoken. The other half raises the whole question of 'rights' in the modern world, of which, according to the claim that it is based on the desire to uplift the needy, is in fact based on their terrible fanatic yearning to cast down the already uplifted, the result is a way of thought which holds this lie to be self-evident: that

Sir Harold kept the Labour Party together for 13 years—now he is unhappy about the 'cowboys' with clenched fists...

not give them just a weekend to clear out their lockers? I have always said about Tony that he is immature with age. (Sir Harold's reply is an example of his deadpan humour which has so perplexed and provoked investigative reporters enquiring about spies and conspiracies. "The trouble with Penrose and Courtois is that they no sense of humour. I would say things as a joke and they took me seriously.")

What of the Social Democrats? "There is a touch of arrogance about Mr Rodgers and Dr Owen. Who was it who said, I wish I was as sure of anything as they are of everything? They are quite able. They were both ministers of state, but I thought that they reached their peak in my time. I would not have made David Owen Foreign Secretary, nor Bill Rodgers Minister of Transport."

"Shirley's a great loss. I do not think that she has got over the shattering effect of losing that seat. She's easily the best of them. What I regret is that some of our best moderates have turned off to the Owen-Rodgers lot."

Most of Sir Harold's energy in recent months has been devoted to his committee on the City which came out against public intervention in banking and insurance. And he has been ill. "Now I am 100 per cent. I had three operations, quite common ones. I was at St Mark's, Islington, and it is the best hospital for it. National Health, of course."

At the next election he will stand down in favour of "the two or three in my constituency who would make first rate MPs". Then he will start on his autobiography.

And when he leaves the House, will he accept an honour? Sir Harold smiled. "I've got one. The Queen made him a Knight of the Garter, a personal honour, in 1976, as a mark of her affection for him."

Nicholas Wapshott  
The Chariot of Israel will be published jointly by Weidenfeld and Nicolson and Michael Joseph on May 5, price £14.95.

## Hospital no place for a President aged 70

President Reagan's doctor a nail-biting time as to their patient stays in the Washington Hospital, a hospital bed is a highly dubious place for a man of 70.

Top of the risks that he is pulmonary embolism, age of the lung arteries by clots) which accounts for to three per cent of all in hospital. The risks are because of the effect an has on the blood. Severe makes the blood thicker so they clot more. Furthermore the immobility of the patient covering from surgery the blood stagnate in the. Studies show that around third of all patients form in their leg vein in the immediately after surgery. These blood clots usually no symptoms or only minor discomfort but they are the of the danger: if the cl comes detached from the of the vein it will be sent the bloodstream to the and on into the lungs.

Despite a whole battery treatment designed to the risk of thrombosis surgery it remains an lap hazard, especially in the to 10 days after operation the risk rises with age.

The President has two big pluses in his favour. He takes a lot of exercise and is physically fit and young for his years...

The second inescapable and of a stay in hospital infection. So many patients any hospital have info that the wards, corridors atmosphere can all too become contaminated micro-organisms, many which are resistant to the most antibiotics.

Hospital air conditioning systems and water supply become infected with bacteria as the notorious cause of legionnaires' disease. Around one patient in 20 either a lung infection, bladder infection while in hospital. Many more patients get wound infection which not only delay but also increase the risk the wound opening up with further haemorrhage. The risks of thrombosis infection do not apply to all patients. These complications are more common to elderly—a point against Reagan—but he is not in really high risk groups which include patients with cancer those who have had trans surgery and indeed anyone a long illness.

The President has two pluses in his favour. He is a lot of exercise, which is the heart and lungs in a condition and protects against thrombosis, and he is physically fit and young for his years. And every surgeon prefer young 70-year-old to an old man of 55.

Overall the chances of a post-operative disaster small enough for the inducement to take a fatalistic attitude; in Mr Reagan's own words, "I will not let the bullet that hit him had name on it."

Dr Tony Smith  
Medical Correspondent

Bernard Levin

## Free—and a bit too easy

Not long ago I wrote a column about a letter, published in *The Guardian*, from a young man who had been unable to find a job and who said that he would favourably consider being part of the Eastern bloc if it would give him work; meanwhile he was existing, he told us, on £15.00 a week.

My point was simple: it was that apart from the hideous poverty in which most of the subject peoples of the Soviet Empire live, his attitude was profoundly, and even shamefully, mistaken, since freedom was not something to be sold for material comfort. And I have been more than usually interested in the reaction of my readers to what I wrote.

Here I must reveal that *The Times* has long followed the most courteous practice of showing letters sent for publication to the member of the editorial staff who would be best placed to reply—that is, if the letter is specifically commenting on something written in the paper, rather than raising some new subject or commenting on public affairs in general; naturally, this custom does not give the journalist concerned any role in the decision on whether the letter is to be published. I have always found it a most useful practice;

letters commenting on what I have written frequently differ significantly in tone and attitude according to whether they are sent to me direct or to the Editor for favour of publication (it is an axiom among the cynical and ink-stained wretches of my profession that the letters agreeing with us and praising us are sent privately to us, whereas those denouncing us as scoundrels are invariably sent to the Editor), and by this means I can get far better picture of how my words have been regarded.

I go into this somewhat arcane matter because there have been an exceptionally large number of letters to the Editor arising out of the column in question, and with only a small dissenting minority they have overwhelmingly disagreed with me. They have done so, moreover, on a very narrow range of grounds; indeed, the same basic argument was used by almost all the writers. And the theme which ran through

them seems to me to be well worth exploring today.

The readers, with very few exceptions, argued that I was wrong to rebuke the young man for his earlier attitude to freedom, because it was a young man who had never had regular paid employment is not going to suffer the creeping despair of a man who knows no other life. But it is more than a semantic confusion to say that such a man, however much he may suffer, is not free; it is also a political and moral confusion.

Freedom is both a positive and a negative state, and in neither mode has it got anything to do with material circumstances. Its negative aspect consists of the absence of restrictions, imposed from without, on the conditions of freedom, which conditions include

all those activities which among them enable or assist the individual to control his rulers rather than be controlled by them, together with those which enable or assist him to express himself in all his personal and social relations.

Thus, if we cannot vote our rulers out of office, if we cannot be judged by an impartial and independent justice, if we cannot combine with others to organize politically or industrially, if we cannot marry whom we please, if we cannot buy and sell as we wish, we are not free.

reputably lost a well-paid job, since he is getting two-thirds of what he would have been getting before as a grant-aided student, and he may rapidly become demoralized (though I doubt anyone who has never had regular paid employment is not going to suffer the creeping despair of a man who knows no other life). But it is more than a semantic confusion to say that such a man, however much he may suffer, is not free; it is also a political and moral confusion.

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course), travel whither we wish, know the laws and know them to be consistent, speak our mind, hate our neighbour—if we cannot do all these things and many more like them, we are not free. Freedom, of course, is not a matter of degree, there are qualifications. We may hate our neighbour, but we may not burn his house down; we may vote for one party at the polls, but we may not overthrow the ensuing government by force if the rival party wins; we may travel abroad, but we must pay our fare.

As, says Kant; then if a man cannot afford the fare, he is not free: QED. Not so; freedom, like the gentleman in the song, does not promise us a rose garden. Suppose we define a man as unfree because he cannot afford the fare to Scotland; how then do we define one who can afford the fare to Scotland but not the fare to Venice? Or, if he can afford the fare to Venice, too, is he not unfree while he has to stay in a pension while another man can take a suite at the Gritti? You see, if we allow economic conditions to define freedom, the definition must become purely relative, and then no one is free except the richest man in the world, and even he cannot buy Mount Everest.

Can, defeated, retire to think, and then comes back with

the argument about "basic necessities": a man can be free without owning a couple of Rembrandts, but he cannot be free if he doesn't own a roof over his head.

There is nothing that cannot, given sufficient ingenuity on the part of Professor Peter Townsend or Mr Frank Field, be turned into one of the basic necessities of life, without which no family can be considered as leading anything but an animal existence. Depend on it, before many more months are out, we shall be hearing of a colour-television set, a car and a regular football-pools entry as no less essential for lifting the individual above the brutish and clothing and bread. And indeed, there is no logical stopping-place at all, because any individual or family, compared with some other, is "deprived" or "underprivileged" (I sometimes think that those two words alone without any more evidence, are enough to damn our civilization to the nineteenth century of hell), and since the whole argument (whence the damnation-words above), though its proponents claim that it is based on the desire to uplift the needy, is in fact based on their terrible fanatic yearning to cast down the already uplifted, the result is a way of thought which holds this lie to be self-evident: that

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## The bar to sober government

It is absolutely shocking that the Prime Minister should stay open when the House is sitting.

The opinion is not mine—I am in favour of the locks on pub doors being declared offensive weapons, calculated to injure the lists of home-fide drinkers trying to gain entry outside the permitted hours. It is that of Lord Avebury, the Liberal peer, who is a teetotaler.

Speaking at an international conference on alcoholism in Liverpool yesterday, Lord Avebury said there were plenty of examples of political leaders whose drinking habits "must have impaired their intellectual capacity and their judgment".

Lord Avebury, who says he has not had a drink for eight years, said records showed that at the height of the Second World War, there were times when Winston Churchill was positively drunk.

And it is not only a Tory vice. After a visit to a Soviet collective farm in 1959, Hugh Gaitskell, he alleged, drank 19 tumblers of vodka and finished off with a tumbler of brandy.

It is hardly surprising that he then became unconscious and had to be carried to his car by Denis Healey and David Ennals. He then slept it off on the journey back to Moscow. Having drink available at all hours in our seat of government was a dreadful example to set

to the rest of the population, Lord Avebury said. "It is unbelievable," he said, "that a man of the calibre of the Prime Minister should be so drunk that they could slip away for a few pints."

(I should point out here that, although I know of no bar within the Lord works, the Prime Minister's pub directly opposite the main gates at Dagenham is well patronized.) Lord Avebury said the job of being an MP (or even a peer, come to that) forced politicians to consume much more drink than was good for them. And to clinch his argument he added: "I knew contemporary of mine when I was an MP who died through drink. There was one MP who drank himself to death. He was always in the bar."

If I had to sit through some of the tedious and irrelevant nonsense that passes for serious debate in the Palace of Westminster, I would be driven to drink too.

## Myth heard?

Have you heard the first cuckoo yet? If you think you have, fear you may have been mistaken, because the cuckoo-hearing season is not really upon us until the end of the week.

If you are still convinced that your ears do not deceive you, the man who opens our letters would be grateful if you kept it to yourself: the report of the first cuckoo in the correspondence columns of *The Times* is one of those myths that will not lie down and die. It is some years since such a

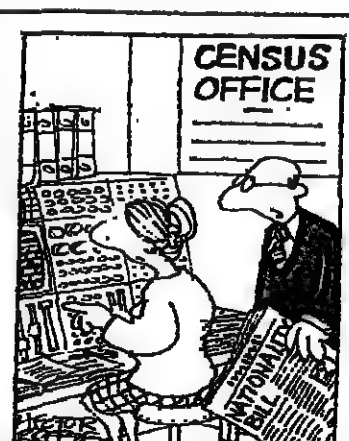
letter appeared in this newspaper. According to Roger Tabor, editor of the *Country-Side*, the journal of the British Naturalists' Association, those living along the Hampshire and Sussex coasts cannot expect to hear the wretched bird before April 12, those in south-west England and south-east England much before April 14 and those in the north and Scotland towards the end of the month.

During the 75 years that the association has been keeping records, it believes the first cuckoo (and it is only just counts because it was a partial albino) was heard and seen on February 26 in southern Scotland. However *The Handbook*, the ornithologists' bible, puts the date considerably later at March 10.

Spotting the genuine article has become considerably more difficult with the advent in this country of the collared dove, which makes similar noises and has misled several correspondents to the opposite page.

The collared dove is not the only imposter. A Mr Lydecker, FRS, writing in these columns on February 6, 1973, to say he had heard the first cuckoo had to write again six days later to confess he had been deceived by a bricklayer's labourer who was adroit at imitating it.

The moral of all this is: beware. Cuckoos, of which between 20,000 and 40,000 mating pairs can be expected from North Africa this year, have been late for the last three years. Deep suspicion will fall on anyone too fast with the pen and too slow with the binocu-



"Do you realize there are four million people all over the world who might suddenly take it into their heads to make all this seem a complete waste of time?"

## Thumping hit

Whatever merits Tony Benn may or may not have as a politician, he is currently enjoying considerable success as an author. Sales of his most recent printed work are basking in the kind of figures normally reserved for works of potboiling fiction grabbed at station bookstalls to be read without benefit of intellectual effort on long, boring journeys.

Benn's *Arguments for Socialism*, a combination of his speeches and a series of interviews with journalist Chris Mullin, sold out in its hardback version within eight weeks, despite its £6 price, and has

been reprinted twice. The paperback version, issued last autumn, has sold 40,000 copies in eight months, helped no doubt by aggressive marketing at the back of the hall where ever its undeniable personable author appears on a platform. Penguin, the paperback publishers, are understandably pleased by the popularity of the writings of one regarded as the Devil incarnate by the substantial section of the British voting and book-buying public. Books of political tub-thumping are usually candidates for the remaindered counter.

Embodied in his success, Benn is at work on a sequel, as yet untitled. It will be in the same vein as the first, but this time based on a series of major political lectures he has given over the years. By a happy coincidence, or astute marketing strategy as those in the trade call it, the new work will appear shortly before the election for the deputy leadership of the Labour Party.

If it sells as well as the first, Benn has either more supporters than he is usually given credit for or his opponents are anxious to bone up on the devil they don't know.

## Top stream

I have always imagined the pressure of the upper classes, but I could not help noticing the high proportion of last Saturday's rowers with a grammar school background. (Despite Mrs Williams' strenuous efforts to impose comprehensive education, grammar schools do still exist.)

Of the 18 rowers and coxes this year's event, I count six who did not have the benefit of the traditional public school education, which was an or less a prerequisite for the rowing Blues of the past, far the most successful rowing academy in recent years. I been Hampton Grammar School, which provided the Devil incarnate by the substantial section of the British voting and book-buying public. Books of political tub-thumping are usually candidates for the remaindered counter.

Good though Hampton record is, grammar schools have not yet taken over the rowing entirely: Hampton is third in the league table for the past decade, exceeded by Radley with 18 places and Eton (of course) with 28. If you go to go back to the very beginning of the event, you will find a total of 652 Eton bottoms sitting on Boat Race places, good five lengths ahead of Shrewsbury with 130 and Radley with 120.

Why, under the "marriage" section of Sunday's census form, did they allow for the single, married, divorced, widowed, but not the separated? Separation, after all, is a legal status. And why no box for cohabitants? The Census Office tell me that "separated" was too sensitive an issue to have its own box, and as for cohabitants, they were used to use the box marked "unrelated"—please specify.

Alan Hamilton



# Le Monde LA STAMPA THE TIMES DIE WELT Europa

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Arrigo Levi discusses the absence of any common political approach between Europe and the United States. On pages II and III other causes of potential conflict are examined

## A relationship strangely out of balance

The relations between the United States and Europe are strangely unbalanced. There is permanent and largely institutionalized relationship in economic affairs and a traditional, almost entirely unstructured relationship in political affairs. The United States has a powerful permanent mission in Brussels, dealing with the economic problems constantly rising between it and the European Community.

In addition, once a year a summit meeting of the Seven — the United States, Canada and Japan and the four main European powers — and the President of the European Commission discusses the world's economic problems in all and defines a common, coordinated Western strategy for the next 12 months. The summit of the Seven also allows a more informal general discussion of the main political problems of the day. But the preparation of the two halves is seriously uneven. While the official economic summit is prepared by a team of special representatives of the seven heads of government or state, through a series of meetings and consultations of the powerful common institutions (the EC, the OECD, the IEA, the central banks' network of constant communications), the political summit is left to last-minute improvisation by the foreign ministries, through their usual diplomatic channels. These are mostly used on bilateral relations, the exception is European political cooperation.

We all know how imperfect the coordination of Western economic policy still is, in spite of the existence of those huge institutions whose purpose is, it has been for many years, to

make such coordination possible and almost unavoidable. The force of the national state remains immense. For instance, the new economic policy of the Reagan Administration, which is the result of purely American political and economic developments, is having a powerful impact on the European economic cycle and the economic decisions of the European governments.

As a result the preparation for the Ottawa summit of the Seven in June will provoke a general review of the existing problems (like that of the United States high interest rates), and prepare the ground for reconstructing the general picture of the Western economy, allowing the definition of a general economic strategy agreed by all. The whole exercise will probably produce imperfect results. But the fact that it will take place, and that a number of existing institutions have, as their task and duty, the production of agreed economic policies, will certainly act as a powerful brake on antagonistic national tendencies.

If one turns from economics to political affairs, the picture is entirely different. Of course, the United States continues to plan its foreign policy as a unified exercise. America has, by definition, one European policy (although, occasionally, there may be two, one emanating from the White House, the other from the State Department, and sometimes even hints of a third from the Pentagon). But there is no single European policy towards the United States and even if, and when, European political cooperation, and informal contacts between the main European powers, produce a common or coordinated political strategy, there is

no individual, no political body, institutionally charged with the task of "negotiating with the Americans".

The lack of a recognized forum where such coordination takes place, with the exception of Nato — whose regional and "military" limitations are well known — leaves political relations between Europe and the United States in a different category from economic relations.

On one side, we have the multilateral, institutionalized diplomacy of the jet and electronic era, and on the other, a bilateral ad hoc diplomacy rooted in ancient traditions — totally unrelated to our world.

The disadvantages of such a situation become particularly evident whenever there comes into existence a new American administration, often with a new philosophy and a new list of priorities. The Europeans have to adjust to these changes, which affect each European government in a different way. Some of them may suddenly find themselves more, others less attuned to the new American mood and policy.

And even if and when the mechanisms of European political cooperation succeed in smoothing over national differences and produce a reasonably coordinated common approach, this is presented to the new American Administration through a series of separate "pilgrimages" across the ocean by European political leaders.

Contradictions could often be prevented and misunderstandings avoided through timely, permanent consultations. Unfortunately, the statesmen of our day are reluctant to try to invent new institutions. They still rely on those which were set up in the great creative age of Western diplomacy, in the postwar period, a generation ago. Since then, the world has undergone revolutionary changes. Western institutions have mostly remained the same. We Europeans can be proud of being the only ones who have invented something new, like political cooperation and the European Council. However, we cannot delude ourselves that this is enough. An attempt to create, together with our American friends, a new kind of alliance can no longer be delayed.

All this shows how imperfect still is the structure of European political cooperation, in spite of progress made during the past decade, since it does not allow Europe to present a common policy and a common image to our greatest friend and ally, the United States. It is equally obvious that coordination of European-American policies is much further behind, lacking the basic institutional mechanisms which are indispensable to containing the inevitable disagreements arising in the moods and policies of American and European societies.

With the arrival of Mr Ronald Reagan at the White House, it has developed into a tidal wave. His radical economic programme, dominated by vigorous wielding of the axe over public spending, has impressed the whole world. The new President of the United States has therefore presented himself not only as the champion of the cause of fighting inflation, but also as the advocate of a complete reversal of the economic doctrines which have prevailed hitherto in the American Administration. Over government, the monster that people thought could no longer be stopped growing, is collapsing with a great din.



Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan at their recent meeting in Washington. Even when there is a common European policy it is presented through separate "pilgrimages" to America.

## Reform of economic policies gathers momentum

At first it had looked like a passing fashion. The image of Keynesian economics had become tarnished and it was time to resuscitate the classical school. It was the law of the pendulum in operation: it was a fickle intelligentsia feeling the need for a change, and so on. Then there came a more serious belief that the change in mood among economists had been caused by the crisis that had been revealed, if not actually induced, by the eruption of oil prices.

But when it gradually became clear that ordinary people throughout the Western world had not only lost patience with excessive state intervention, taxes and social security contributions, but were prepared to vote into power governments which held the same views, there was no longer any denying that a strong current had been set in motion.

With the arrival of Mr Ronald Reagan at the White House, it has developed into a tidal wave. His radical economic programme, dominated by vigorous wielding of the axe over public spending, has impressed the whole world. The new President of the United States has therefore presented himself not only as the champion of the cause of fighting inflation, but also as the advocate of a complete reversal of the economic doctrines which have prevailed hitherto in the American Administration. Over government, the monster that people thought could no longer be stopped growing, is collapsing with a great din.

The noise from across the Atlantic should not drown the echoes from the abrupt changes of direction taken in other countries some time ago. Mrs Thatcher in Britain was the first to break — none too gently — with past methods of conducting an economic policy. Of course, Conservative governments invariably introduce programmes that are very different from those of the Labour governments that they have just put out of office. But

style matters and, moreover, parties tend to tone down the content of their election manifestos when they come to power. It did not take many days after May 3, 1979, for people to realize that Mrs Thatcher had no intention of allowing the sting to be drawn from her programme. She saw no room for compromise in the range of radical measures to be applied, involving the abandonment of incomes policy and price controls, the reduction of taxes, a halt to nationalization, the reduction of public spending, monetarism worthy of the Chicago school and abolition of all exchange controls. She certainly had a mandate from the electorate, who returned the Conservatives with their biggest majority since the war. According to Hugh Stephenson, she was strongly influenced by the economists Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman, whom she had met in 1977: their role in spreading the ideas of a radical "new light" is well known.

The liberals' success in the last West German elections is another manifestation of the shift in public opinion, but their influence extends far beyond the real political weight of the FDP. Count Otto Lambsdorff, Minister for Economic Affairs, is determined to defend his liberal doctrine against any ferment of resistance arising out of the crisis. Nor will he find the Chancellor placing any significant restrictions on the development of his ideas, even though those who have a liking for anecdote, and hope to stir up animosity between the two, point out that Herr Schmidt has portrayed the socialist leader Babel in his office whereas the count works under the austere gaze of Bismarck.

In France, as always, the conceptual mix is more complex. President Giscard d'Estaing has deliberately set himself up as the apostle of radicalism, and even of "advanced radicalism", signifying that he did not intend to confine himself to the old ideas of the Manchester school. His Government has indeed applied some of the teachings of the neo-radicals, abolishing price controls, turning its back on incomes policy in order to encourage dialogue between employers and employees, and pursuing a policy aimed at helping companies to rebuild their profits.

That said, the power of the state remains very great. The total burden of fiscal and social security contributions is rising all the time. Whereas it amounted to 36.3 per cent of the national product at the beginning of President Giscard's

seven-year term of office, it now stands at 42 per cent. At the same time, the state under the premiership of M Barre is intervening in more and more areas of the private sector, whether to encourage companies to merge or set up plants in certain areas, or to gain control of all the markets where essential technology is involved.

Curiously, the political figure who has most readily associated himself with the radical tidal wave is M Chirac, who now presents himself as standing four-square with the majority — but against President Giscard — as a disciple of President Reagan, attacking state centralization, interventionism and milking of the taxpayer.

The radical intellectual resurgence is on the crest of a wave in most Western countries, especially in the universities. Examples who spring to mind are J.-J. Koss, Pascal Salin, Christian Morisson and Alain Wolfelersperger in France, Alan Peacock, John Burton and Ralph Harris in Britain, Professor Giersch's team in West Germany, and Antonio Martino and Sergio Ricossa in Italy.

It is nevertheless difficult to assess what chance this radical revival has of standing the test of time. It all depends on the results achieved with policies pursued under this label. No doubt the economic policies of the Labour Party in Britain or the Democrats in the United States did not come up to the expectations of their architects. But although Mrs Thatcher is gradually bringing inflation under control and has elevated sterling to an enviable position, she has had complete lack of success on the employment front (10 per cent of the working population unemployed) and radical theory has suffered a number of setbacks (state support for British Leyland and British Steel, scrapping of the plans to restructure the coal industry, and above all the increase in direct taxation).

The West Germans for their part are expecting an absolute fall in output in 1981 and their external deficit is reaching record levels.

All eyes are now on the United States. If it makes a good start and manages to maintain a fair growth rate without too much inflation, the flame of radicalism could be burning for some time to come. Otherwise...

Pierre Drouin

\*Mrs Thatcher's First Year, Jill Warriner, London, 1980.

†Journal de Geneve, (January 7, 1981).

## Dialogue must replace world's dangerous instability

Firmness is needed in dealing with the Soviet Union and the regeneration of the European Community which has lost the tools for which it was founded. Paolo Lombardi talks to SIGNOR EMILIO ILOMBO, the Italian Foreign Minister

West relations are at their best level since the invasion of Czechoslovakia, 13 years ago. But, as we once again go through a period of cold

is always difficult to define period in our history by using the same expressions. I do not think that, in present state of affairs, we speak once more of cold I would rather say that we are in an unstable international situation, and for this reason, it is very dangerous one.

Can we get out of this perilous situation? Undoubtedly the only way, is we must try to make use of by continuing to talk. We to replace this period of billy with a dialogue that stabilize East-West relations. And that calls for ration and a sense of visibility on everyone's. In this period it has been to everyone that détente

was something that the Soviet Union interpreted onesidedly. Whereas the West, in Moscow's view, ought to do nothing, but respect its agreements, the Soviet Union was free to take direct action to change existing balances of power.

But the Russians have always said, right from the time of the first Brezhnev-Nixon meeting in 1972, that détente does not mean the "end of ideological competition". There is nothing surprising, therefore, about the Soviet Union's policy of expansion; if anything, it is the way the West sees it that has changed. Why?

Because two things have changed since then. First of all, as far as ideological competition is concerned, we have seen external military support given to individual countries. Undoubtedly, the most obvious case is Afghanistan. But this is not the only one. If we remember the direct or indirect intervention, through the *longa manus* of the Cubans, in Africa,

or the constant threats to Poland, I do not think that this boils down purely and simply to ideological competition.

And second, the West, which is indeed experiencing a phase of détente, has been less concerned than in the past to guarantee a balance of forces, above all military force, as well as a balance of influence in the world.

With regard to the balance of forces, we must consider the proposal of the Soviet President, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, acceptable, for a moratorium on the installation of theatre nuclear forces in Europe?

The moratorium that Mr Brezhnev proposes today is very different from what was proposed 10 months ago by Chancellor Schmidt. The Soviet proposal aims at the ratification of a condition of substantial inequality which, quite apart from the East-West relationship taken overall, particularly affects Europe. Now, Mr Brezhnev's proposals have something to commend them, since they express an aspiration and desire to discuss, and to negotiate. But in themselves they are not acceptable. It is important that the bases for this discussion should be reasonable and fair.

Minister, you were the first to say that the American analysis goes beyond the phenomenon of terrorism as we understand it in Italy, and also in Europe. It embraces phenomena of various types, especially the revolutionary movements within individual countries, which are supported by external intervention. It is a very much more extensive interpretation of the concept of terrorism.

European statesmen to have a meeting with President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig. After which, you had a number of talks with all your European colleagues. Do you agree with the analysis that the new American Administration has made of the international situation? Is there a common European line?

Yes, we share the same views, and consider that the firmness shown by the United States is a good thing. Obviously, it is the kind of firmness that we value, with good reason, because it is in favour of dialogue; but it is a dialogue that begins from positions of absolute equilibrium.

Italy has a special terrorism problem. Do you also share General Haig's view when he says that the Soviet Union is the "godmother" of world terrorism?

I think that the American analysis goes beyond the phenomenon of terrorism as we understand it in Italy, and also in Europe. It embraces phenomena of various types, especially the revolutionary movements within individual countries, which are supported by external intervention. It is a very much more extensive interpretation of the concept of terrorism.

It is certainly difficult, as things are today, to translate concretely — that is, into diplomatic action — the need and desire for dialogue that you have mentioned several times. But, from the practical viewpoint, what can we do today?

We can, for a start, send the Soviet Union clear signals to make it understand that détente would be irreversibly compromised if there were any other action — changing the present balance. Obviously, we were asked to accept as a fait accompli situations such as Afghanistan, without seeking political solutions. I think that this attitude would be important into power governments. Moreover, I believe that the West must restore the status quo, where equilibrium has been upset.

This gives us the problem of how, and where, the West must concentrate its action. Recently there have been arguments over the suggestion, which then lapsed, for a limited summit in Madrid. There was a report by four institutes of international relations that put forward various proposals for dealing with crises, and emphasized that the so-called "principal nations", which excluded Italy, have a special role. What is your opinion about this?

The report contains a number of assessments and views on Western policy with which we can broadly agree. Then it looks at ways of drawing up a common policy but, in my view, comes to the wrong conclusion. There are already European and, in the broader sense, Western institutional consultative bodies that function perfectly well.

Under our own presidency the summit meeting of the seven most highly industrialized countries was changed from a purely economic meeting to one that was also political. If, therefore, we are looking for a common consultative body that can include also a large Asiatic power such as Japan, the meeting of the seven is the proper one.

We do not at all believe in the usefulness of summit meetings of the Gaudeloupe kind. Experience tells us that they do more harm than good, and it is better not to repeat them. Italy has shown it wants to take on its own responsibilities within the Western alliance, but certainly would not wish to undertake duties, or apply decisions, in

the framing of which it had had no part.

But a country's foreign policy is the projection of its domestic policy. And, to the outside world, Italy projects an image of continuous government crises, and perennial economic weakness. How can it have any pretensions to authority in foreign policy?

When speaking with the leaders in other countries I found myself following two lines of reasoning that are apparently contradictory. From the point of view of its international orientation Italy is certainly the most stable postwar country. It has taken its decisions, and stood by them. Indeed, within the country, some political forces even had opposed these decisions, and then declared their support for them.

There is, however, the other side of the picture. I always have to make it clear that this constancy and continuity will be maintained despite the fact of having to suffer the instability and uncertainty of internal politics, the weaknesses of our economic policy and the almost total unawareness of certain social and political forces within our country that there is a direct relationship between strength and cohesion in domestic policy, and efficiency and prestige in foreign policy.

In the recent past, one of the causes of disagreement between the European partners has often been the European Community. What, Minister, is your diagnosis of the state of health of the EEC? We realize that we have already achieved a great deal, and not without difficulty. We are not, however, satisfied. Not only, and not so much, because a number of substantial Italian interests sometimes do not appear to be taken into account in the development of Community policy. But, above all, because we believe that Europe has lost its drive, has lost the ideals for which it was brought into being, and has today become a fount of fragile compromises, slow to be reached, and not always fair to all.

We can always ask this or that country for sacrifices, in this or that sector, if we remain true to the final objective, which is European union and, by implication, a common responsibility towards the other leading powers in world policy, and a commitment to the harmonious development of all member countries and components of the Community.

On the contrary

## Weather forecast

Yesterday's unsettled conditions, especially sea areas Sole, Fisher, German Bight, Isterre, Biscay, Irish Sea and South-east land, seem likely to go on affecting the other round our coasts. Farther inland, bility remains poor to moderate, with e over prospects for EMS, and fog ches over high unemployment figures. gional, social, and industrial policies will tinue wet, with scattered showers and y rain at times, but the possibility of ht intervals later.

pending will remain steady, despite a e of high pressure over CAP reform, affected by a blocking anticyclone.

Further squalls can be expected over the Budget, with temperatures rising, winds reaching storm force 10, severe funnelling at times, and the depression slowly backing and filling. Under the influence of westerly airstreams, particularly affecting the trades, gales force 8 to 9 may be imminent in sea areas Rockall, Bailey and Reagan. No icing is expected.

Further outlook: continuing depression, with thunder at times, poor conditions on left of the chart possibly leading to local disturbances, with similar outbreaks due to associated fronts crossing on the far right.

Pangloss

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## Protectionism in America

Japanese cars may have to brake  
at import barriers

Despite the many vows that free trade will be upheld, a cry for protectionist measures invariably sweeps through the United States whenever home industries have overreached themselves or there is a downward trend in the economy. Imported Japanese cars are the latest products to be pilloried. And it was only a short while ago that the United States Government brought in artificial barriers against imports of textiles, clothing, high-grade steel, colour television sets, electronic goods, leather footwear, sugar and carbon steel.

Demand for compartmentation is traditional in the United States. The United States processing industry grew up behind a wall of protective tariffs. The Hawley-Smoot Tariff Act signed by President Hoover in 1929 plunged America and the rest of the world into the Great Depression. After 1945, in the absence of foreign competition, the United States could safely reintroduce a policy of free trade. This lasted until 1971, when President Nixon imposed a 10 per cent import duty overnight.

Bets are being laid in Washington that the necessary preparations have already been made for an all-out assault against the flood of Japanese car imports. So far, however, only the outward trappings are involved. Since, under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), unilateral restrictions on trade are outlawed, the Reagan Administration is thinking in terms of an Orderly Market Agreement (OMA), whereby Tokyo would undertake to restrict exports to the United States to a specific volume for a specified period of time.

Voluntary restraint, or orderly marketing, agreements of this kind, which incidentally are an American invention, have worked well for Washington in the past. With the exercise of sufficient pressure all foreign governments have proved amenable. Japan has already carried out a number of such agreements.

But Congress is urging tougher measures. The stage when Detroit's own faulty planning alone was blamed for the fatal decline in sales since 1974. All those concerned in government have taken fright, which in view of the high level of unemployment and the huge losses suffered by the four United States car companies (\$4,200m in 1980, and probably \$500m in 1981) is not surprising. The sword of Damocles is hanging over Chrysler in particular, which

has already been compelled to ask for government credits amounting to \$1,200m.

Two Bills are now on the debating list which vie with each other in the severity of their proposals. One has been submitted by Senators Danforth and Bentsen, a Republican-Democrat partnership, which proposes a unilateral limitation on Japanese imports by the United States Government. Under the terms of this Bill, Japan is required to reduce its exports by 15 per cent for the next three years, so that instead of 1,900,000 cars, imported into the United States in 1980, the permitted volume would drop to 1,600,000.

The other Bill, put forward by Congressmen Brodhead and Hillis, envisages an import

quota for 1981-83 of 1,200,000 units. After that, the Japanese would be permitted to add a further 5 per cent in volume, making the maximum total about 1,250,000 and 1,350,000 units for 1984 and 1985 respectively. Such a quota restriction could also affect exports from Europe. But this would apply to the base year.

In introducing these Bills their sponsors pleaded that the dire straits in which Detroit is placed call for exceptional measures. The United States motor industry, which needs \$80,000m to finance projects for conversion to small-car production by 1985, should be given the opportunity, they claim, to adapt itself to the changed circumstances of competition.

There is also a fear on Capitol Hill that the continual rise in fuel costs in the United States could lead to even greater demand for the little cars from Japan. In January alone the Japanese exported 551,539 cars to the United States — 33 per cent more than for the corresponding month last year. Moreover, Congress is also looking with some concern to Europe. It believes — and the same applies in reverse — that if the EEC decides to impose official restrictions there could be a new surge of Japanese exports to the American market. Mr Philip Caldwell, the president of the Ford Motor Company, has been stirring up feelings with references to the unilateral restrictions on Japanese imports that Britain, Italy

and France have already introduced, and to the fact that the duty on imported cars levied by the Community is three times as high as that imposed in America.

Two members of President Reagan's Cabinet, Mr Baldrige and Mr Lewis, the Secretaries of Commerce and Transportation, are backing Congress's proposals with the argument that under the Administration's depreciation scheduling it will be three years before Detroit receives any active assistance. Opposed to them, as exponents of free trade, are the President himself, his chief economic adviser Mr Weidenbaum, Mr Stockman, the Budget Director, and Mr Donald Regan, the Finance Secretary, all of whom have given warning against the

inflationary consequences of compartmentation. They clearly fear a chain reaction throughout America.

Domestic policy considerations, meanwhile, will tip the scales. It seems probable that Washington and Tokyo will conclude an orderly market agreement before Congress can get down to business. A document will be signed during the forthcoming visit of Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Japanese Prime Minister, in May, which will probably limit imports of Japanese cars to 1,700,000 a year. But voluntary OMAs are still an unadulterated form of protectionism.

Horst Alexander Siebert

## Food markets

Cooperation still  
elusive

The recent extension of the 1971 International Wheat Agreement (the sixth such extension for two years on this occasion) clearly reflects the inability of the large agricultural producers to make progress in cooperating on the administration of markets. The change of government in Washington adds to the uncertainty over the prospects for the conclusion of further agreements.

As far as relations between the United States and the European Economic Community are concerned, wheat is an interesting example in that it illustrates the fundamental conflict of interests between the two economic powers, both with their own volumes of production and exports, and each reluctant to accept an agreement which would constrain the other.

The United States is the world's biggest exporter of food and agricultural produce, followed by France and the Netherlands. It is also the second largest importer, after West Germany and ahead of Britain and Japan. However, the EEC as a whole is at one and the same time the Americans' foremost customer and a permanent exporter of certain products (sugar, cereals and dairy produce) to markets where the United States also intends to operate.

This may look like a trade power struggle between two blocks, but in practice the EEC is fettered by the nature of its imports from the United States, the bulk of which is accounted for by proteins (maize and soya) of vital importance to European stock-breeders.

In 1973, when the Nixon Administration placed an embargo on soya exports, the effects in Europe were more psychological than economic. Importers had the weakness of their position brought home to them, but the two-month embargo itself did not result in any substantial reduction in exports of soya bean oil-cake or seed.

Since that time, however, the export of food and agricultural produce has become both a national duty and an instrument of world strategy for the United States, whereas previously it had served primarily as a means of regulating domestic prices. Rather than declare embargoes of doubtful efficacy, the United States has campaigned consistently for the lowering of customs and non-tariff barriers.

It has had a fair measure of success since, at the last Tokyo Round of multilateral trade

negotiations, it was able to defend its own protectionist measures against imports of dairy produce, while managing to have the zero rate of customs duty on soya imports confirmed and also making a breach in the EEC tariff barriers to secure the right to export "high quality" beef and veal, thereby pointing the way to other meat-producing countries.

The strategy of the United States towards Europe is fairly simple, coming down to obstructing EEC exports and promoting its own, but it is made to seem more complicated by the camouflage of diplomatic language. On both sides of the Atlantic, much play is made with the meaning of words.

Granted our agricultural systems are not comparable. But the Americans talk of export subsidies and customs barriers, where the Europeans refer to a Community system of protection for producers and consumers. What the Community calls export aids and subsidies the United States as normal arrangements for credit and market stabilization to maintain prices or producers' incomes.

The differences between the Carter and Reagan administrations on this subject are probably not as great as the electoral campaign might have suggested. The role of government, according to President Reagan, is to create the conditions for free competition. The Republican Government team does not favour bilateral agreements, except with the centralized-economy countries, which represent a substantial proportion of American export markets, and it has maintained the export credo.

The resources of the Community Credit Corporation have been strengthened and the continuation of the embargo on exports of cereals to the Soviet Union itself still seems to be more of an inconvenience to the European countries involved than to the United States. Did not Mr Bob Bergland, Secretary of Agriculture under Mr Carter, admit on leaving office that American exports to Eastern Europe, especially East Germany and Czechoslovakia, had actually increased?

The slight tendency towards an alignment between world prices and European prices could help to make the Americans less critical of European protectionism. Unless, that is, the narrowing margins fan competition in world trade.

Jacques Grall

## Translating costs rise

Machines take over  
the drudgery

"The only major project of its kind in the world... the Eurotra project is at the frontier of current human knowledge." This description of a proposed European system for computerized or machine translation comes not from its promoters, but from the European Parliament's Patterson report on the "problems arising from the multilingualism of the European Community".

To finance Eurotra the European Commission is seeking £6m from EEC institutions and national governments — a small sum compared to the cost of the Community's unique multilingualism and the worldwide investment in machine translation.

The EEC has seven official languages, two more than the United Nations. All are equal under the Treaty of Rome, legislation and major documents appear in all seven languages and sometimes also in Irish. Language-related costs — translating, interpreting and set-up services — account for more than 40 per cent of the cost of the Commission's work. The community (60 per cent in the use of the Council and Parliament). They totalled 170m in 1979 and are rising steadily, with a 10 per cent annual increase in paper translated, and a greater jump in every new official language.

Last year each of six languages was translated and interpreted into the other five, making 30 language pairs. Now each gives seven times six, or 42 pairs, and soon Spain and Portugal are likely to make that 48.

For many pairs (Danish to Greek, for instance) enough competent linguists do not even exist. The reason for this high ideal Community multilingualism has been well expressed by the arch head of the Commission's translators in Luxembourg, Albert Bachrach. Recognize a country's language, and you will perhaps respect that country, rather than invade it; impose your language on it, and you invade without even trying.

The cost and inconvenience of the system are obvious. However, the alternatives would favour one or more of the big four — French, English, German, Italian — at the expense of the other languages. (An exception is the suggestion that all speak French or English, justice being ensured by making the French speak English and the English speak French.) The mission was therefore to seek more effective ways of mitigating the difficulty of having been investigating actual aids, including machine translation. Machine translation (MT) is a notorious area. The Russian for "we demand peace" was once translated "we require world".

An adverse government report in 1966 almost killed United States research into fully automatic high-quality translation. Yet pockets of research persisted, usually on tiny budgets, kept alive by the need for scientific and technical information, Quebec's demand for French translations, or the translation of Mormon texts into hundreds of languages.

One of the resulting systems, Systran, was bought by the European Commission in 1976. Along with Systran's customers, the Commission does development work on the system, which has therefore much improved.

In 1977, however, the European Commission decided to use the MT skill in European universities (Grenoble, Saarbrücken, Essex, Pisa and others) in an advanced project, now known as Eurotra.

Some 60 academics from eight EEC countries have been working on Eurotra since 1978. Inside the Commission, Serge Perschke is head of MT, outside, in neutral Geneva, Maggie King coordinates. The group has made some progress on very limited funds, and if the £6m budget is approved soon, hopes to have a pilot scheme in 1983 — a full-scale prototype in 1986. The pilot is to translate Commission texts of 10,000 words between a limited number of languages in one subject area. Later Eurotra, like Systran, should be available on the Euronet-Diane information network and to EEC government bodies and universities.

The basic strategy of Eurotra is to have a transfer module for each language pair, but only one input (analysis) and output (synthesis) module for each language (to be plugged into the transfer module required). Work to date has concentrated on agreeing structures for the interfaces between the modules.

Systran, though not good by human standards, is operational and improving. Why, then, is Eurotra wanted? Maggie King recently gave the following reasons: Systran is not good enough, and may never be; its static and dynamic parts — data and the acters performed on it — are inextricable, faults are hard to locate and to eliminate without unfortunate side effects.

Eurotra, by contrast, will be modular, that is broken up into well-defined sections, each one with its task clearly known. Easier to debug, it should also allow new modules (for EEC languages now undreamed of) to be "plugged in" quite easily.

Each Systran system translates only from one source language to one target language, so that the EEC's present 42 language pairs demand a number of these one-to-one Systrans, but only one many-to-many Eurotra. The

projected system will be more readily portable from computer to computer. It will incorporate the advances of the decade since Systran appeared. Better still, its greater modularity will enable it to absorb the results of future research, and this, the Commission believes, will in turn stimulate such research and help Europe to retain a lead in this.

Competition is keen, particularly in Asia, the Soviet Union and North America. And not all research is done on the systems listed in the tables. There is much other investment in MT and related subjects (linguistics, artificial intelligence and computing), which is probably significant that Japan, which is now working very hard on information technology, is

Machine  
translation  
systems

These or their translations are commercially available.

**GEORGETOWN (US)**  
First MT (Washington DC 1954). The 1965 version used still by Atomic Energy Commission and till 1976 by Euratom in Ispra, Italy.

**SYSTRAN (US)**  
Developed after Georgetown for big IBM 360/70 computer. Relative linguistic advancement. Bases in North and South America, Munich, Japan. \$10,000 a month to lease.

**LOGOS (US)**  
Promising. Unfortunately began on Vietnamese and Farsi. Now French, working on German.

**CULT (Hongkong)**  
Machine-translates China's maths journals and sells the

printout to libraries world wide.

**VINIT/VCN — THD (Soviet Union)**  
Translates patents. One of various systems in Soviet Union.

**WEIDNER (US)**  
Marketed as aid for translators. For sale (from \$80,000), lease or rent in North America, Europe and Japan. Just gone public.

**ALPS (US)**  
New commercial offshoot of Brigham Young University's MT. Some similarity to Weidner, but with preediting of text.

**TITUS (France)**  
Abstracts drafted in limited syntax are translated into several languages simultaneously. Developed by Institut Textile de France, used by various countries.

**METEO (Canada)**  
Translates 85% of sentences in weather forecasts.

## Who has them

Present Systran and Weidner installations, including some still experimental but excluding those undergoing only preliminary tests.

**LUXEMBOURG**  
European Commission (see text).  
Informalux (new bureau service, also for Belgium)

**GERMANY**  
BOTS (translation agency, Munich)

**UNITED STATES**  
Government agencies (Army, Air Force)

Xerox Corp (Webster) Inter-American Development Bank (Washington) Princeton International (translation agency, Boston) Siemens (Florida) Computer Science Corp (time sharing, Los Angeles)

**CANADA**  
General Motors Bell-Northeastern Research Computrans (offering bureau Service) Simpson Sears (stores) Mitel (telecommunications, Ottawa, in electronic publishing system)

**JAPAN**  
Bravice International (translation agency, Tokyo)

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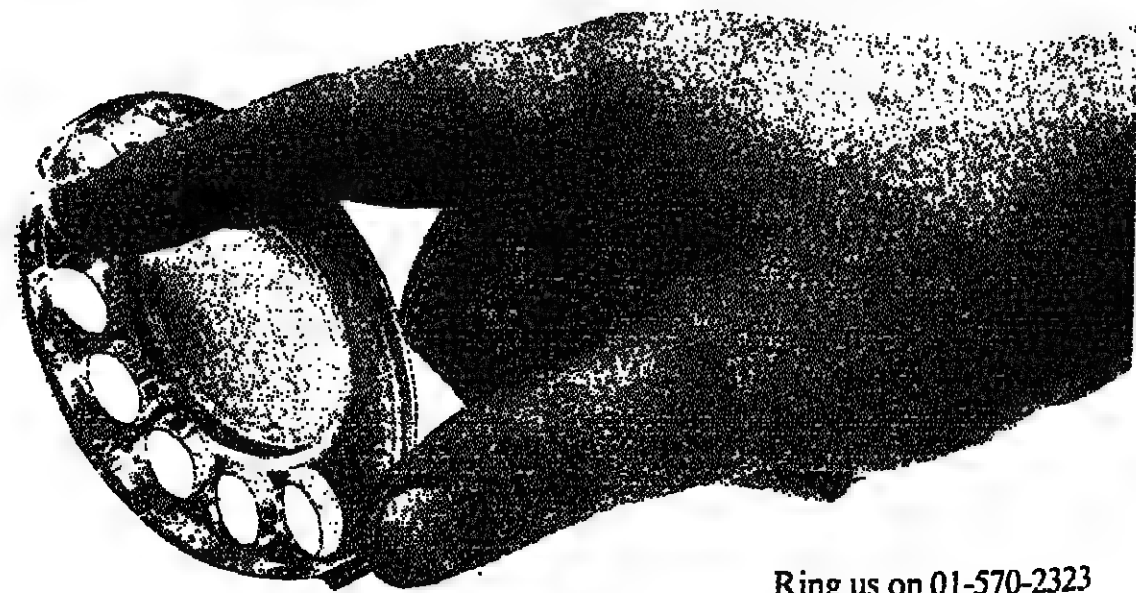
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## MR HAIG SHOULD SOLDIER ON

Attempts on the life of the President of the United States are, tragically, something that both Americans and the rest of the world have to learn to expect. The attempt on President Reagan has shown that the American government system, despite the occasional slip-up, can handle immediate inevitable crisis—that of authority. But it has also shown another side of Washington's political life, the never-ending struggle for influence and the infighting to which it leads. In the aftermath of last week's shooting, the emphasis has been much less on the way in which continuity was achieved during a few tense hours on Monday afternoon than on the behaviour of Mr Haig, the Secretary of State. Mr Haig has been sharply criticised for his statement on television that he was in control at the White House pending the return from Texas of Vice-President Bush; and for the fact that at a time when he was ostensibly trying to provide reassurance, he was himself under obvious nervous strain.

There is no question that Mr Haig is an inordinately ambitious man who may well have presidential aspirations himself—he is seen as "a man on horseback". It is also true that by saying that he was in control he could have

appeared to be encroaching on the territory of Mr Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence. When it comes to the armed forces, the line of command in an emergency goes from the President to the Vice-President, and from the Vice-President to the Secretary of Defence. But Mr Haig was in fact in charge of the situation room in the White House at a time, until Mr Bush arrived, and the subsequent outcry apparently had more to do with attempts to cut Mr Haig down to size than with any very serious impropriety on his part. He did have differences with Mr Weinberger. But coming as it did after the recent row over who should be chairman of the crisis management committee appointed by Mr Reagan, the incident has made him appear to be hungry for power.

Such things are important in Washington, and Mr Haig should have been aware of that. After a time when he appeared to be carrying all before him, and to be achieving a position in which he could have a more or less free hand in foreign policy, he has now had two serious setbacks. He has in fact overreached himself in some ways and himself opponents on the right of the American spectrum, who backed Mr Reagan for the presi-

dency but find Mr Haig altogether too moderate for their taste, have notably seized the opportunity. It is not too late for Mr Haig to recover. He is a forceful in-fighter himself. But for a time, at least, he is going to find it that much harder to put his own stamp on foreign policy.

There is, however, no reason for him to resign, and it is to be hoped that he will not. He has considerable backing in Congress and in the American public opinion generally. After the row over the crisis management committee Mr Reagan publicly expressed his continued support. In an Administration where there are strong voices for a simplistic and ideological view of foreign affairs, his is one of the few in favour of a more pragmatic and realistic approach, in the Middle East and elsewhere. He has, after all, spent some time in Europe, where he was the Supreme Allied Commander, and has a good grasp of European attitudes. He should not be faulted for believing, that Monday afternoon, that people should be reassured about what was happening. It is to be hoped that his authority will be intact as he travels in the Middle East. A strong but sensitive American policy is more important than a few ruffled feathers in Washington.

## THE STRAINS OF YUGOSLAVIA WITHOUT TITO

The declaration of a state of emergency in the autonomous region of Kosovo has brought Yugoslavia face to face with the strains of the post-Tito era. It is nearly a year since Marshal Tito died, leaving the country bereft of the kind of strong leadership which centred on his personality for over thirty years. Yugoslavia is made up of six national republics and two autonomous regions, and Tito alone—in his lifetime—was able to impose a road national identity on these disparate cultures.

Kosovo embodies the contradictions of Yugoslav society, inhabited by Albanians, it is part of the Republic of Serbia, but has the status of an autonomous region. This arrangement worked well enough under Tito, with occasional hiccups. But in the last year cracks have begun to appear. Serious unrest broke out last month among Albanian students in Pristina, the capital of the Kosovo region, and there were further disturbances in their towns, with loss of life. Martial law is still in force throughout Kosovo, with the Yugoslav Army in control of public buildings. The streets of Pristina are apparently calm, but the authorities have called for "vigilance" in case rioting breaks out again.

The system of collective leadership evolved by Tito to insure continuity and stability is still now held up remarkably well. Power is rotated both within the Communist Party and within the State Presidency. The army is still a unifying force, sitting across national and

regional boundaries, and focusing attention on the need for a federal consensus in the interests of national defence.

But Kosovo is not the only source of latent tension. There have been sporadic tests of strength between the central authorities and nationalists in Croatia. Croatia is the second largest republic in the federation (after Serbia), and has an influential Catholic establishment. Archbishop Franjo Kuharic of Zagreb recently attacked the Government for suppressing a petition requesting an amnesty for Croatian political prisoners. A leading Croatian nationalist, Mr Franjo Tudjman, was given a three year prison sentence in February for "hostile propaganda against the state".

The Yugoslav leadership also faces severe economic problems. Inflation is running at an annual rate of over 30 per cent, with worse predicted. Coupled with a fall in real wages, this has led to vocal grumblings of discontent. Yugoslavia's economic planners were praised by the OECD last year for their efforts to maintain a high growth rate while fighting to keep inflation down and improve the balance of payments. The fact remains that the man in the street is feeling the pinch, and some Yugoslav economists privately warn that inflation could reach 80 or even 90 per cent by the end of this year.

The crucial test for Tito's successors could arise at the point where these nationalist ambitions and economic strains coincide. To some extent they

already do. Under Yugoslavia's federal system, the richer republics are obliged to give aid to the poorer areas, and this can—does—give rise to feelings of resentment. Kosovo is one of the poorer regions of Yugoslavia, and has received large injections of cash from more prosperous parts of the country. The allegation that these funds have been misused or frittered away is partly justified, partly not, but has in any case fuelled the kind of internal feuding President Tito sought to avoid.

The one factor which has always held Yugoslavia together in the past is the sure knowledge that any signs of internal weakness will be exploited by the Soviet Union. The current crisis over Soviet intentions toward Poland will certainly have the effect of stiffening Yugoslav resolve, and will strengthen the tendency to pull together in the face of a common threat. On the other hand, Yugoslav leaders are unwilling to be seen to endorse the Polish experiment of free trade unionism within a Communist framework. Liberal though the Yugoslav framework already is, Communist rulers anywhere find it difficult to adapt anything which appears to challenge their monopoly of power within the one party state. The fact that Yugoslavia, like Poland, has a strong Catholic Church is clearly an added cause for concern in Belgrade. Tito's heirs can be expected to continue to place emphasis on the Soviet threat while at the same time trying to contain any Yugoslav desire to emulate the Polish example.

## WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR FATHER?

It did we all spot the extra editions hidden behind those captive dem-pages which did it reach the top? 250 times if we used them, because the tegrator—the enumerator, that will check the replies as she lects them, and ask us to fill 7 gaps. The census-takers are eful not to court the public opinion and hostility which ennially threatens to frustrate ir work. They can probably relatively satisfied with the y the 1981 census has passed, unless some unsuspected ll of dumb insolence reveals if when the returns are noted.

The 1971 census was a far re contentious affair. The ural Party and some spokes- n for racial minorities made a t-to-do about privacy and the- sibility that confidential rmation might be passed to police or the Inland Revenue. imony is normal: even the missioners compiling the nesday Book met with great ural resentment on their els—and it took more than tile geese to deter enumera- s in those days. The British g both governable and apt rumble, we have acquiesced the decennial chore for 180 rs, but always so grudgingly to discourage the inquisitors n lengthening the tally of sions unduly. hat strikes roughly the right

balance. Census-taking would rapidly lose credit if it became apparent that information about identifiable individuals was not efficiently protected, or that the questions were not all relevant to some central matter of social policy. There is no visible cause for doubt about security, and there were, if anything, too few questions rather than too many. Even in these days of sample polls and General Household Surveys the comprehensive data gathered on a consistent basis in successive censuses is an essential foundation for much official planning and grant-distributing. Evidence scooped up by the voluntary sample can reveal much, but the basic facts have to be established with more precision.

For those householders who sat down for a cosy evening of self-revelation, the census must even have appeared disappointingly curt, with an obsessive interest in flush toilets and professional diplomas leaving little scope for the delineation of a personal life-style. A few questions asked ten years ago were omitted this time, and the much-debated question about ethnic origin was not posed. In the latter omission, the investigators were undoubtedly right. The published evidence from a sample test that they did in Haringey did not show that such a question was widely unacceptable, among racial minorities,

and the Commission for Racial Equality and other organizations working in the field agree that the information would have been useful. In the United States, where the rights of the individual in respect of firearms are so jealously protected, the householder is required (if he is among the one in five who receive the full-length census form) to give up a startling quantity of information about income, rent, and ethnic origin. Hispanic householders are asked questions which would certainly be of interest to border police patrolling the Rio Grande on the lookout for wetbacks, if they had access to them.

But in general our own catchers are well advised to keep things short. Natural curiosity provides a quite strong enough impetus to the asking of many questions, and once the habit is acquired, it is not easily lost. The first Book of Chronicles recounts how King David conducted a census, at a time when a graver view was taken of such matters than today, and how a pestilence was visited on Israel to punish him. The king and his inner cabinet donned sackcloth to a man, and by energetic displays of contrition and diplomacy persuaded God to stay his hand. The chronicler records that as a result of the pestilence there fell of Israel 70,000 men. Someone, evidently, was still counting.

## bania and its gold

Discussing the complex issue of Albania's gold held in this country, Bristol writes (April 1) that "Leka had never abdicated and 'left the country voluntarily' to prevent the certain possibility of being executed or incarcerated by revolutionaries". In fact, he hardly in a position either to leave voluntarily or to be possible dire consequences. A poor boy was only three days when his parents—King Zog and en Geraldine—escaped with him in a fascist army marched into Albania. And it was only after King

Zog died in France in April, 1961, that his only son proclaimed himself King.

Lord Bristol's contention that King Leka heads a legal Albanian government in exile and that the communist government in Albania itself is a "rebel" government is equally fanciful. No such government in exile exists, is none that is recognized by anybody. And it seems quite pointless to say that the Albanian communist government is a rebel one, given the fact that it has been in power for over 36 years, is a member of the United Nations, and is recognized by a large number of other countries.

What would be more to the point would be to define the actual character of the regime. It is in fact a

self-proclaimed Stalinist regime; the only communist regime in Europe which still reveres Stalin and all that he stood for, and also behaves accordingly.

Lastly, Lord Bristol says there are more Albanian refugees living abroad than there are Albanians in the country itself. This is also untrue. The present population of Albania is 2,670,000, whereas the number of post war refugees runs into a few thousand.

His Lordship could have hardly packed more howlers into a single letter if he had tried.

Yours sincerely,  
ANTON LOGORECI,  
18 Disraeli Gardens,  
Epsom Park Road, SW15  
April 2.

## The fight for a currency's health

From Lord Cromer  
Sir, What a pity that Cambridge could only drum up 364 economists of the present Government. With only one more signatory they would have been in a position to publish an annual almanac, complete, no doubt, with a different economic precept for every day of the year: perhaps with a supplement in leap years codifying the consensus authorities.

The battle against inflation, like all battles, is most unpleasant, and sadly not without casualties. The cancer of inflation has gone deeply into the system, just how deep has only been discovered since the Government seriously started to attack it. It is self-perpetuating and increasingly debilitating.

The mandate of the Prime Minister and his colleagues, with a remarkable plurality of votes, was to rid the country of this sickness and the Government has acted boldly in the attempt to restore health to the nation as far as an honest currency is vital to a peaceful, prosperous and equitable future.

To believe in the need for integrity of the currency does not make a "monetarist". Lord Keynes had some pungent words on the consequence of debase of the currency. We in our time have seen enough to recognize how right he was in this respect.

Those, therefore, who seek to subvert or frustrate the Government's efforts, either through academic pique at the failure of the "conventional wisdom" of recent years to maintain a stable pound at home, or through falseing courage, assume a heavy responsibility to put forward a credible alternative.

Can the motley of 364 do this? I have the honour to remain, Sir, Yours, etc.  
CROMER,  
House of Lords,  
April 4.

From Professor Amartya Sen, FBA  
Sir, In describing the signatures to the recent statement against the Government's economic policy as "the lost generation of British economists who had succumbed to the teaching of Lord Keynes" (April 1) Professor Hayek is neither fair nor accurate. The criticism came from many quarters and not just from Keynesians—lost or not.

The defence of government policy increasingly seems to involve chastising the past economic advisers. I am not one, but I have to confess being impressed by the

dual standard that this method permits. If the current policy succeeds, it shows how right it is, and if it does not, then—in Hayek's words—it only "reveals the damage that they [the past economic advisers] have done". Government policy, it appears, cannot possibly lose. Inflation down—our success. Output down, unemployment galloping, industry near collapse—their failure. The point has been made—I think with some justice—that it is wrong to criticize government policy when the critics themselves disagree on what would be the best alternative. But the best, on which views might well differ, need not be made the enemy of the agreed good. Napoleon would have been ill-advised to continue his Russian campaign just because of disagreement on the best time of withdrawal. There is, I believe, agreement among the critics on the immediate need for a less deflationary policy. There is a common understanding of the need to change the enormous restrictive pressure now exerted through monetary and fiscal policy on real output and employment. This is not, of course, enough. Serious pursuit of long-run improvement of British economic performance will require, in the judgment of many of us, substantial changes in economic organization and industrial relations. But we cannot begin to rise to the task until the single-minded concentration on monetary magic is rejected.

Professor Hayek claims that "only after inflation has been brought to a halt can the market be expected to guide workers to jobs which can be maintained without accelerating inflation". There is no empirical evidence in favour of this proposition. Indeed, inflation has come to a "full stop" hardly in any modern economy, and despite that many of them have enjoyed sustained increases in employment and output without accelerating inflation. What is needed is less reliance on the wizardry of deflationary cure, and more deliberation and efforts directed towards purposeful institutional changes in the economy.

Professor Hayek refers to a "panic mob". The scale of the economic disaster makes panic difficult to avoid, but nevertheless Hayek is right to censure it. On the other hand, one may perhaps be forgiven for being a bit sceptical about the noble vision of upward sloping demand curves going down with the whole vessel—deflation to the last, saluting the flag of a non-existent promised land.

Yours faithfully,  
AMARTYA SEN,  
All Souls College, Oxford.

## The soul of Labour

From Mrs Jane Ewart-Biggs  
Sir, I very much welcomed Geoffrey Smith's article, "What makes a Labour moderate stay on?" (March 27). Nevertheless, I am disappointed to find that he failed to lay enough stress on the most important aspiration of the Labour Solidarity Campaign, and one which relates very closely to the electorate, this being the aspiration to remain Labour supporters that the party of which they have been voting in successive elections as the one representing their convictions does still exist. It has not disappeared, nor have those supporters been abandoned by it.

If, as Geoffrey Smith states when describing certain Labour members of Parliament, Labour moderates are saying that "the Labour Party can still be a serviceable vehicle for people of their persuasion", then, equally, should that party still retain the confidence and trust of supporters of the same persuasion? In spite of conflicts within it and defections from its ranks it nevertheless remains a party able to represent men and women with views based on realism and tolerance.

Yours faithfully,  
JANE EWART-BIGGS,  
31 Radnor Walk, SW3.

From Mr Leon Marks  
Sir, As someone who left the Labour Party two years ago after 20 years of active membership and 10 years as a Labour councillor, I would no doubt have been expected to have been one of the first to join the Social Democratic Party by now, but I have not done so as yet because I have been waiting to see what its policy will be on issues of the true interests of others, and I suggest millions of others.

From what it has declared on Nato and Europe, I trust and believe the SDP. On creating a mixed economy in which the private sector can survive (industry, commerce, health, education, etc.), I am prepared to give it, temporarily, the benefit of the doubt.

## Vice-chancellorship

From Lord Scarman  
Sir, I write in protest at the publication by *The Times* of two pieces (March 20 and April 1) by your Lordship's nephew, Lord Scarman, with the work now in progress to find a successor to Lord Amman as Vice-Chancellor of the University of London.

The two pieces have done damage to the true interests of a great university, and have caused embarrassment, even distress, to individuals. I wish, through your columns, to apologise to Sir Alec Merrison, Sir Rex Richards, Professor Quirk and Lord Flowers for the breach of confidence (by whomsoever caused) which has made them the victims of a publicity which satisfies no interest save that of the gossip.

But on the issue of the trade unions, so many of us do require nothing less than an open and honest declaration of intent by the SDP to reduce their powers and so-called "rights" by effective means. By outright opposition to the closed shop, to the political levy, and to effective restraints or intimidatory picketing (primary or secondary), by sensible limitations on the right to strike (surely long overdue—since it represents of course the ugly language of force with which violence, brought to bear on vital and not so vital industries alike and far too much romanticized in the reality of the latter half of the twentieth century), and rebuttal of national blackmail generally. Without such determination, not one of their other policies has a real chance of working. The advent of the SDP will produce no lasting benefit to the nation and only further political disillusion.

I have no doubt that there is a broad national consensus (although of course not universal) in favour of all the above and other measures, but they can only be achieved politically by the SDP harnessing and activating this consensus by slyly itself if only on this subject with at least one alternative political party (which until now, for understandable but sad reasons, has proceeded very hesitantly in this area).

An SDP that, for all its fine words, represents just another political party, just another party to ingratiate itself with the trade unions would be nauseating. We already have two such parties, one large, one small. We emphatically do not need a third.

Yes, it will require courage, but there is no honourable alternative. This will be the Social Democratic Party's greatest non-socialist test. Roy, David, Bill and Shirley: we are waiting for your statement on this issue.

Yours faithfully,  
LEON MARKS,  
79 Deacons Hill Road,  
Elstree, Hertfordshire.

## JP's choice in Civil Service strike

From Mr A. J. Brayshaw  
Sir, The undertaking that is sworn on solemnly affirmed by all magistrates is that "I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second in the office of justice of the peace, and I will do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of the realm without fear or favour, affection or ill-will".

No one is obliged to undertake this obligation but if he does then he must in conscience fulfil it. To serve in the office of justice means doing justice in the Queen's courts. If any JP refuses to do justice according to law through fear or favour of any pressure group of any kind he fails to honour his undertaking and unfit himself for his office.

In a conflict of loyalties justice must be above politics, not politics above justice; else there is no justice.

Yours sincerely,  
A. J. BRAYSHAW,  
Apple Trees,  
Beech Road,  
Haslemere, Surrey,  
April 3.

## Appointment of bishops

From the Reverend Basil Watson  
Sir, When your correspondent, Canon Paul Oestreicher (April 2), has frightened Synod into opting to become a minority sect it will surely be time enough for church-goers to vote themselves the bishops they desire and deserve. While the Church of England, however, remains what its designation still implies it must be the clear duty of the politicians, as they seem to have done so successfully in the London appointment, to safeguard the non-ecclesiastically minded majority of Christians.

In its present concern the Church of England is still too important an institution for the appointment of its bishops to be left in the hands of its deans and chapters. Yours faithfully,  
BASIL WATSON,  
St Lawrence Jewry,  
New Guildhall, EC2,  
April 4.

## Young offenders

From Mr B. Beaumont  
Sir, The National Association of Probation Officers (Napo) was shocked by Mr Mayhew's revelation (report, March 24) that the tougher detention centre regimes operated at Send and New Hall are to be extended to two other centres (Foston Hall and Haslar). We had received no prior notification of this change and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, the decision was taken without any consultation with bodies, such as Napo, with first-hand experience of working with offenders.

When the tougher regimes were introduced last year, our association was sceptical about the value of these changes and indeed questioned whether it was really possible to toughen up the existing harsh and disciplinary regimes. We were, however, assured that the Government regarded the two centres as an "experiment" and that the new regimes would be carefully monitored to see if they were any more successful than the conventional centres.

In making his announcement Mr Mayhew apparently conceded that the results of monitoring would not be available until 1983 and yet the Government has now decided to extend its experiment without awaiting the inconvenience of those results.

Viewers of the television coverage of the announcement were shown the square-jawed, muscular, endless parades and hard labour central to the "new" regime. They could be forgiven for concluding that there was nothing new in these developments and that this return to the bankrupt solution of authoritarianism is a policy of despair. Surely the people of this country will be prepared to support more imaginative and positive approaches to the problems posed by young offenders? Yours faithfully,  
B. BEAUMONT, Vice-Chairman,  
National Association of Probation Officers,  
Ambassador House, Brigstock Road,  
Thornton Heath, Surrey,  
April 3.

indeed before deciding that it required breach of the magistrat oath. Or do Mr Bubb and those who share his views consider that the oath should be amended by the addition of some such clause as "save in the event of industrial action in furtherance of a pay claim"?

This letter seems to bring out very clearly indeed the need for some hard thinking about ultimate and overriding loyalties—not only by magistrates but by us all. Yours faithfully,  
LETTY LEWENZ,  
Archard House,  
40 Jessop's Lane,  
Gedling, Nottingham.  
April 4.

From Mrs O. C. Paynton  
Sir, If Mr Bubb (April 3) feels his personal convictions prevent him from doing his duty as a JP he should resign, and for that I would respect him, because the oath he took to "do right by all manner of people" means not only to trade unionists—but others.

If a court sits and the public are there to get justice they have a right to it. If Mr Bubb feels his deeply held political convictions would not permit him to do so, he should not be a JP. Yours sincerely,  
OLIVE PAYNTON,  
6 Eldon Grove, NW3,  
April 3.

diocese, but I was told that such a procedure was incompatible with the prerogatives of the Crown. It was indeed a sad case, and the difficulties of conscience that the Church, after years of discussion, worked out a formula with the state.

As one who values the Establishment, I hoped that those who thought that the only solution was to be found in "disestablishment" would now be satisfied.

What has recently happened may well bring us back to square one. Indeed the position is a little worse. Formerly we knew we had no alternative but to accept the advice of the Prime Minister: today we imagined we were masters and stewards within our own household.

I accept the fact that the Prime Minister has observed the letter of the law, even though he has offended against the spirit. But in so doing he has placed the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's in an embarrassing situation. They will meet to elect the new Bishop of London. Before they vote they will invoke the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, they will follow the advice given from on high will correspond with the decision that has been made in Whitehall.

## George Eliot, feminist

From Mrs Jane Irwin  
Sir, Jill Craigie (or Mrs Michael Foot) has written a cogent letter (April 1) about the Equal Opportunities Commission but I regret that she begins by linking George Eliot with the Dulwich "blacklegs".

George Eliot never wrote a letter to *The Times* declaring that she had not suffered from unequal opportunities for women in education and employment. Her support of women's world did not make her complacent about opportunities for others. On the contrary, she supported the efforts of friends who were actively engaged in the feminist cause: publishing *The English Woman's Journal*, founding the Society for Promoting the Employment of Women, investigating workhouse schools for girls, and founding Girton College. She contributed financially to Girton College (and Newnham College) and gave substantial gifts from her widowhood, but her preferred method of promoting higher education for women was giving individual financial assistance to needy women students.

We should recognize that her personal circumstances made some public activities difficult. She could not sign any petition as "Mrs George Henry Lewes" while that name belonged legally to another woman who was alive and thriving on an income supplied in part from George Eliot's earnings as a novelist. Her best energies were devoted to writing, of course. We may well wish that she had supported women's suffrage; but she had doubts about giving women the right to vote in drunken and disorderly polls like that described in *Felix Holt*.

Her views about extending the franchise were conservative. But she does not deserve to be tarred with the same brush as those "blacklegs" who band together to protest the extension to other women of opportunities that they have been lucky enough to seize for themselves. Yours faithfully,  
JANE IRWIN,  
57 Girton Road,  
Cambridge.  
April 2.

## Out for the count

From Mrs J. V. Crouch-Smith  
Sir, How threatening official language can appear! A Spanish member of our domestic staff was recently expressing what seemed to me to be inordinate anxiety about completing her census form. Eventually the reason became clear. She had interpreted "form for making an individual return" as "form for making an individual return to her own country". Yours faithfully,  
JEAN CROUCH-SMITH,  
Headmistress,  
Tortoise School,  
Guildford, Surrey,  
April 2.







THE ARTS

# A welcome for everyone in brightly coloured space

Calder  
Layor Gallery/  
Waddington II

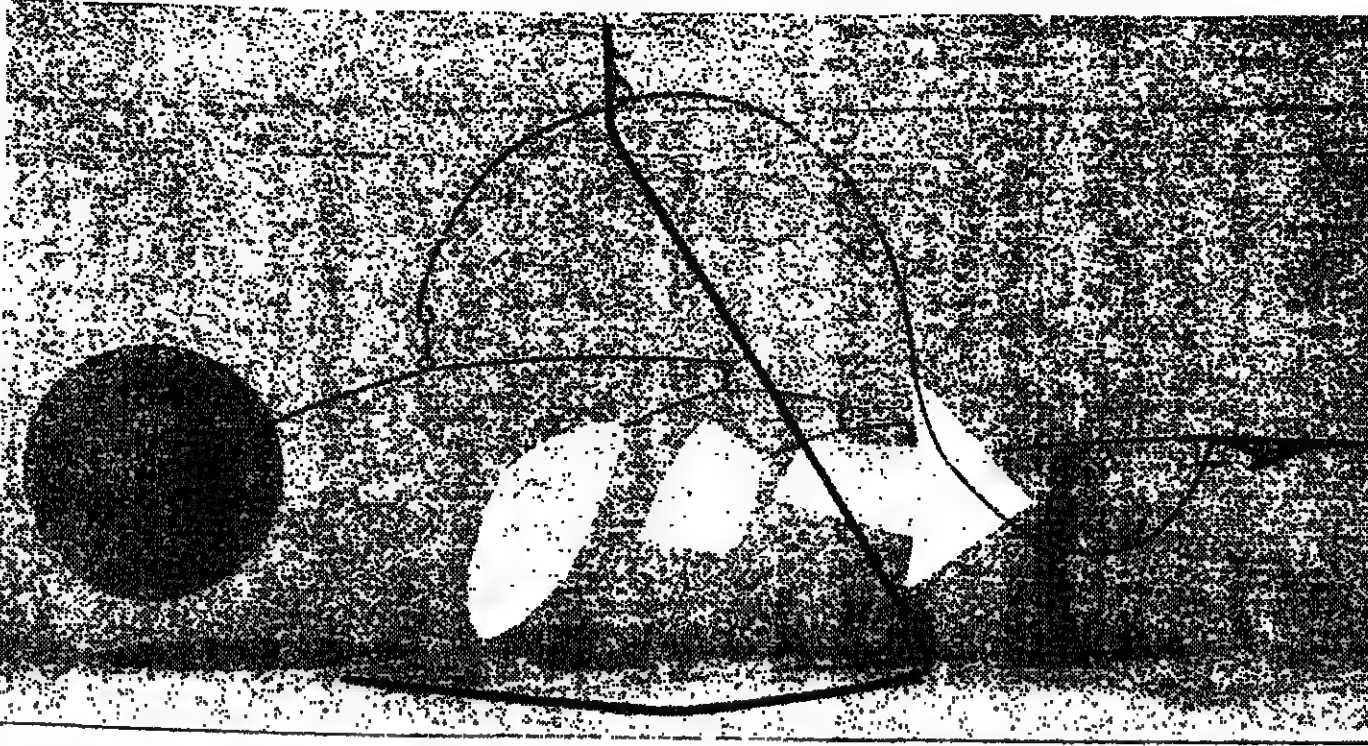
Jack Smith:  
Recent Paintings  
Fischer Fine Art

Jacqui Poncelet:  
New Ceramics  
Crafts Council Gallery

Carl Van Vechten:  
Vintage Photographs  
Duke Street Gallery

Herbert List:  
Photographers' Gallery

Avi Boulton:  
National Film Theatre



An aesthetic of lightness and mobility: Calder's *White Arrow* (1971).

ough Fifties nostalgia is big the moment in other areas the arts and entertainments, same does not yet seem to have come in art. We still look upon boomerang-shaped coffee tables, rotary Cathedral, and the other creations of Bernard. If or Mathieu or Regier with the equivocal, my indulgence of "Isn't it so long ago that we precisely the same attitude Victorian extravaganzas. I now take very seriously, perhaps reaction of the 1950s is sady creeping up on us. The other week I myself really, seriously of some little furniture at the Victoria and Albert. And today I find self almost equally sady to be enjoying as much I do the show of Calder bies at Waddington II and, ew doors down Cork Street, the Mayor Gallery until 25.

ot that all of Calder is omologically encompassed the 1950s. The earliest work he presents show a stable d Kiki's Nudes dates back 1932, and the most recent, my-three *Snowflakes* and puzles for Wichita, were in 1975, the year before death. Nor can we even y claim that he swam into ken in the 1950s: his first can show in London in the Mayor Gallery in 1937.

if every artist has his or ideal period, without doubt- ists was the 1950s. From

the start, his aesthetic was based on lightness, mobility and a spidery, spindly quality which has been appreciated since the 1930s. In the 1950s people thrilled for the first time to the aesthetic possibilities of structures without any visible means of support, painted forms which seemed to be out-looked off with an almost aud-ible flutter of tiny wings or hovered as mysteriously as fly- ing saucers.

At which point Calder might well have said "I told you so". His *Mobile with Glass and String* of 1934, suspending in delicate balance morsels of coloured glass, anticipates com- pletely the Fifties look—except that later on the suspended pieces of the mobile would also be streamlined in shapes suggesting the boomerang or aerodynamic diagrams. Since Calder remained true to his style, once established, for the rest of his life, during the last 10 years or so of it he seemed something of an anachronism, and it became difficult to look at his characteristic mobiles, or even the free-standing sheet-metal *Critters* with three or four legs which now so char- mingly people the back room at the Mayor Gallery, without re- ducing them to fit a period pigeonhole. But time brings its revenges, and now I doubt if anyone entering either of these

galleries can fail to feel a lift of delight at the brightly coloured constructions which move gently in the breeze about his head or nudge his elbow or engage in a stately mechanical dance to the tune of some hidden power. Light- hearted without being frivolous, elegant without affectation, Calder's works inhabit their own space, but make us all welcome in it.

During the 1950s, Jack Smith was exhibiting at the Beaux Arts Gallery, and, as one might expect from the context, was very much the sort of realist critics of the time I liked to link with the kitchen sink. It was, of course, in its way a very Fifties thing to be. But with the 1960s his style changed completely and he moved into the kind of abstraction he still practices today, as may be seen from the show of recent work now at Fischer Fine Art (until April 16). And yet, curiously enough, there is something rather Fifties about his ab- stractions, too. The little bars of yellow and red and black and blue which whirl and scatter over the geometrical grid of *Fractured I*, like matchsticks in a flooded gutter, are in Festi- val colours and have the right sort of down-with-Udall lackluster. Elsewhere, the clusters of pins with coloured heads which bring a dimen- sional element into the paint- ings complete the physical-

if not necessarily spiritually— lightweight effect.

But I must not push a fancy too far. Representational or abstract, Jack Smith knows his own mind and follows his own way, which is not necessarily bounded by any particular period. If his paintings look at times a bit like exploded Mond- rians, their spirit is much closer to Dufy: an irrespec- tible polli will keep breaking through. Much the same could be said of Jacqui Poncelet's latest work at the Crafts Coun- cil Gallery (until May 15). The juxtaposition is not entirely random either: the patterns with which they are decorated, and the colours used in those patterns, have a more than passing resemblance to Jack Smith's and convey the same sort of dislocated cheerfulness. The shapes, this time, are mostly sliced-off or bitten-into motifs, with some even more Fifties free-forms thrown in—the angular cartons of ceramic seem for a moment to have been phased out.

The 1950s crop up, surpris- ingly, in the show of Carl Van Vechten's photographs at the 12 Duke Street Gallery until April 16. The surprise is that most people's associations with Van Vechten, fostered by the show's rather elaborate mise en scene, are of the 1920s and early 1930s—the time of his most famous novels, such as *Nigger Heaven* and *Peter Whif-*

le. Indeed, it may come as an added surprise to many (of the few who have these days even heard of him) that he took photographs as well. But he did, and later, when his literary fame had faded, that was what he did more than anything else. Because of his fame in other areas, however, he had access to many literary lions who were not photo- graphed by just anybody; while still in his eighties an abiding interest in the young and the beautiful brought the young lions, the Marlon Brandos and Truman Capotes and all, into his view-finder too. Even at the last, there is a sort of engaging amateurish- ness about the pictures. But unlike Cecil Beaton, Van Vechten never lost his photo- graphic innocence, and so the rather silly props and the transparent contrivance work almost as well as his occasional inspired simplicity.

No amateurishness whatever about the other classic twen- tieth-century photographer at present on show, Herbert List, whose best work is on at the Photographers' Gallery in Great Newport Street (until April 26) to coincide with the publication of a finely pro- duced and long-overdue book about his art from Thames and Hudson (£12.50). List seems to have had other interests in common with Van Vechten—a

weakness for surrealist trim- mings, a lot of muscular young flesh—but even his earliest "amateur" photographs, taken when he was just feeling his way and filling up his personal snapshot album, have the unmistakable artist's eye for a cunning composition, for the sparkling interplay of light and surface textures.

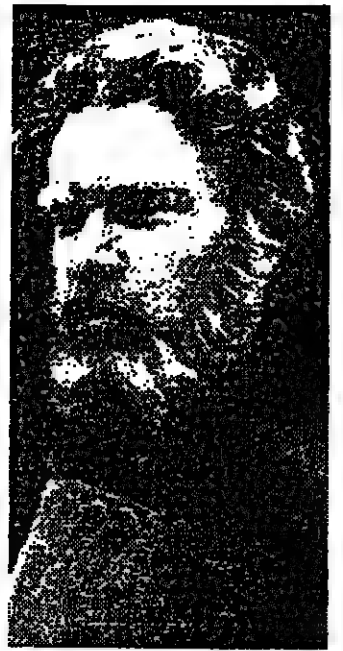
It seems reasonable that he should have been a close friend of Hoyningen Huene, since his approach to photo- graphing classical antiquity, or finding bizarre sights on the pale yellow sands of the sur- realists, or constructing do-it- yourself Dalis and Chiricos in his studio, bears a striking re- semblance to Hoyningen Huene's own, and they fre- quently worked in the 1930s for the same magazines. This is very much photographic art with a capital A—none of your grainy neo-realism for List, even when he is recording bomb-shattered Munich after the war—but for once it is fully able to live up to its pretensions.

The present return to favour of photographers who revelled thus unashamedly in glamour and artifice has focused atten- tion—thanks largely to the scholarship and enthusiasm of John Kobal—on that hitherto despised and virtually anony- mous breed, the Hollywood portrait photographer. Davis Boulton, who is the subject of a small exhibition at the National Film Theatre (until the end of the month), was not exactly that, as he was working in British studios and com- bined, Britain being Britain, jobs which in Hollywood were completely distinct on-set stills- men and portrait photog- rapher. And in fact the contin- uity of his work through his pic- tures from Hitchcock films at Gaumont British in the mid- 1930s to the last lavish *Ben- Hur* in Rome is above all in his response to character.

There is, for instance, a clas- sic image of Ralph Richardson from the pre-war period, looking on a wall like a discarded doll but keeping a watchful eye open; and later, from *The Bar- retts of Wimpole Street*, a superb Gleigud in severe mood. But he could also make beautiful women look beautiful and interesting women look in- teresting, and had a fine eye for oddity—the antic dispropor- tions of *Tom Thumb* seen from the sidelines are well captured, and there is one striking image of giant legs end- ing in the empty air outside a *Ben-Hur* set which List would have been proud to create if he could not just, like Boulton, find it and pin it down for ever.

John Russell Taylor

## Bartok's mystery Castle



The triple bill of all Bartok's stage works is tonight given in London for the first time. English National Opera and London Festival Ballet combine at the Coliseum to present *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, *The Wooden Prince* and *The Miraculous Mandarin*. John Tomlinson (right) sings the demanding part of Bluebeard.

At the age of 19 and in the middle of studying for a civil engineering degree at Man- chester University, John Tom- linson pinned a card up on the notice board of the Royal Man- chester College of Music asking for singing lessons. Within five years he was a principal at Glyndebourne, after four more moved into the English National Opera in roles like Hagen, Leporello, Sarastro and Figaro, and made his debut in *Salome* at Covent Garden. Tonight, at the age of 34, he sings Bartok's *Duke Bluebeard* for the first time at the English National Opera.

His thoughts about the role reveal something of his approach to his own career. He understated the part for the ENO production three years ago. "I've thought a tremen- dous amount about it since then. When I worked with Reginald Goodall on the role of Hagen for a whole year—his methods are slow, painstaking, years in advance of a perfor- mance—I realized how im- portant a long preparation was for me. I now have very specific ideas about Bluebeard, though they are so deeply assimilated that it's harder than ever to be specific about them."

"The work is, after all, a complete mystery: no one should ever claim to have found its total meaning. Yet there aren't many roles where the character is so clearly drawn. Bluebeard's personality, his memory, if you like, is being opened up in stages from the first door, the torture chamber—the archetypal Blue- beard—through to the sixth door, the sea of tears. And there you realize that behind all the exterior is a tremen- dous depth of sorrow."

"And he's a universal character. The relationship with Judith, contracted into 50 minutes, is a relationship be- tween any man and woman who love each other. The open- ing of the doors is necessary, painful, joyful—and yet still more doors have to be opened. It's one of the few roles where you have to do a perfor- mance each time. I can't even rehearse without perform- ing it: so much depends on the internal emotional score. But it's the music itself, although it's so complicated, that makes such an incredibly difficult task possible, and you're safe if you're always servant to it."

Offers of roles are cropping over each other for John Tomlinson now: "I feel as if I'm on a conveyor belt; the only time I ever feel like giving up is out of sheer exhaustion." But his energy is safely chan- nelled by his approach to his work, which seems to be very much that of the philosopher- craftsman: reminiscent, in- deed, of Hans Sachs, a role which he still feels uncertain about vocally (it is a higher, bass-baritone role), but which he is obviously drawn to and

would love to sing in a few years' time.

"As a performer, you've got to give yourself the right environment in which to de- velop as an artist. If you get pigeon-holed as the serious, weighty bass of Sarastro, Wagner and Verdi, it can be very limiting." He left one singing teacher precisely because he felt he was becom- ing too bass-orientated: "It instinctively felt wrong; I've always insisted on not putting false quality into the voice, manufacturing a dark colour. It's an all-too-common yet quite wrong tendency for a young bass."

After five years on contract at the ENO and *Salome*, *La Bohème* and *Simon Boccanegra* at Covent Garden, Tomlinson is now independent and free to choose in which direction he goes. "I'd like to keep working at the ENO as a guest—I re- spect that. When the audience is understanding the words and there's a good cross-re- sponse socially, you're well at the way to finding what opera's about. I was afraid of going to Covent Garden and being tempted by one or two good roles, then deteriorating into endless gardeners and second priests. So I've opted over the last five years to do bigger roles at ENO rather than smaller ones at Covent Garden."

But this summer he will be at the Royal Opera House doing Hobson in *Peter Grimes* and Masetto in the new *Don Giovanni*, with Ferrando in *Travatore*, the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* and Rastafire in *Billy Budd* among at least eight roles there next season, with pendings in his diary for 1983 when he also looks forward to a lot of work abroad. There will be Mozart's *Figaro* and *Achilles* in Han- del's *Giulio Cesare* in Geneva, and another *Figaro* in Avignon.

Above all, Tomlinson will not be rushed, or rushed into specializing. "Ultimately, though, I feel my voice and personality are more northern than southern European. I'm looking forward immensely to Boris on the ENO tour next spring—and of course more Wagner. I believe very strongly that it would be dan- gerous to specialize in that now, but I've a feeling that when I'm 40 or so that may happen and I may then forget the *Figaros*."

Having worked on Strauss's *Ariadne* and *Salome*, and recently recorded *Gunterram* for the EBC, he is full of excited apprehension at the thought of his first Baron Ochs in the next Glyndebourne touring season. "I just hope I'm cut out for it. I'm quite young, I haven't got quite enough, and I'm not the most extrovert sort of character. But I'm very opti- mistic about that. In fact it's all gone far better than I could have hoped."

Hilary Finch

## Book review: scholarly compassion

James I of England  
Caroline Bingham

denfield & Nicolson, £9.95)

id's wounds! I will pull y my breeches and they also see my arse!"

omed the King, sick and at the attentions of a which he was told to ease upon his face. James I was not vain; unlike so many self-made but like most decent la who have inherited position, he was well able to distinguish between him- self and the great person he occupied. However, particular occasion was a moment's personal per- u for he was far more than his descendant Victoria of the public's for a glimpse of their sign. At York a great comfort of the he went on foot to h, saying: "I will have ach, for the people are us to see a King, and so shall, for they will see his body as his face".

t, James was not only ally modest, but also ahead of his ill-yoked oms in good sense, is apparent from the wise eadable reassessment eign in Caroline Bing- James I of England. is her second book on often misunderstood ch, being complementary earlier work on the sub- The Making of a King. But this new book on its own, since it with a summary of his years as King of Scots preceding to his inter- ally more important as King of England. He f, of course, preferred to himself James the First

of Great Britain, seeking the Union of Parliaments over a century before it came—such a numerical style, except among Balkan monarchs, being never normally used by contem- poraries except to indicate a complete change of status from earlier numbering: no doubt speaks of Victoria I, not spoke of Elizabeth I until the present reign.

King James was not only a statesman ahead of his subjects in desiring their political union, he was also an accom- plished theologian far ahead of his time ecumenically. Himself a devout Calvinist despite his well-known crack, "No bishop, no king", he allowed his Danish queen to become a con- vert to Catholicism without dan- gering their children's staunch Anglicanism; and but for the backlash provoked by the foolish firebrands' Gun- powder Plot had clearly in- tended to relax the penal laws against Roman Catholics.

As the story unfolds, my ad- miration increases for Miss Bingham's scholarly com- passion towards the long-dead people of whom she writes. If the Howards appear too ten- cious of power, when she takes even the naughtiest of them apart—the murderous Frances Howard, Countess of Essex and Somerset—she brings us into sympathy with the mis- guided lady's problems. She is able to discuss James's affec- tion for Carr and Buckingham in a tolerant light impossible to earlier writers: at first experimentally bisexual, his more dominant homosexuality probably involved mutual mas- turbation, since he condemned sodomy. Above all, however, James kept England out of war: his wise inglorious motto was "Blessed are the Peace- makers".

Iain Moncreiffe

## LPO/Pritchard Festival Hall

Max Harrison

The opening pages of Delius's *Brigg Fair* are a remarkable evocation of the English countryside as it once was; the flute, harp and the strings' timeless continuum suggesting the hushed calm of a late spring afternoon. John Pritchard caught that aspect of the music beautifully in the performance he gave on Sunday with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and later on there was much lovely playing from the strings and solo horn.

Into this state of contempla- tion a Lincolnshire folk song is introduced, and it, too, seems outside time. However corporeal action ensues in the resource- ful variations which follow, and once again it has to be remarked that because Delius has been so much spoken of as a rhapsodist we remain less aware than we should be of his craftsmanship. Perhaps *Brigg Fair* is a matter of variations on a mood rather than on notes, for often we seem to be at once close to yet far distant from the thematic melody. That comes across in the diver- sity of the insistently multi- storied orchestral fabric, which Mr Pritchard controlled with vigilant sensitivity.

Another set of variations fol- lowed in the shape of Rach-

maninov's *Rhapsody* on a Theme of Paganini, in which Joachim Achucarro was the soloist. Like *Brigg Fair*, it is no rhapsody. To begin with, the keyboard part is thinly writ- ten but Mr Achucarro played it very legato and well-pedalled, so that it achieved maximum contrast with the sharp, spiky orchestration.

That continued through Stravinsky's *Capriccio* for piano and orchestra heightening the effect that each was making. There's, indeed, a very musical performance, the diffi- culties of the soloist's part never being made a point of, although the virtuosity of the orchestration was emphasized.

Without ever going against the score, and aided by the Festival Hall's famous acoustics, Mr Pritchard ac- centuated woodwind and brass through strings, and the whole sometimes took on an ig- niter reminiscent of Paganini rather than Rachmaninov. Even the lushly melodious Variation 18 was not overheard, and note was taken of the humour the composer expressed in several deflationary endings.

We also heard an interesting account of Sibelius's second symphony, at once sombre and exultant. The LPO strings had the composer's vision, and the darkly resonant tone which gave this interpretation much of its weight. However, rather than the music's physical prop- erties, the real point was its internal drama, so vividly realized here.

## Wind Harmonie/Bourton Queen Elizabeth Hall

Hilary Finch

Sunday night's curtain-raiser, Weber's "Marche für Har- monie", is, as its title would make clear, in France or Germany, a march for wind band. That Robert Bourton, principal bassoon of the London Symphony Orchestra, chose the strangely but per- tinent name of Wind Harmonie for his newly formed ensemble in no way detracts from his enterprise in giving well-established orchestral col- leagues a chance to come out for an airing.

An outing was obviously what they needed. Although the group contains some highly skilled individual musicians, as was revealed in the deftly played 18 variations of Wilfred Joseph's meandering *Concerto a Dodi*, their ensemble play- ing is as yet too complacent and lacking in a sense of musical galvanization and in- fertilization to be taken seriously as chamber-music making.

Colours and tones were blended sensitively enough to tickle the ear in Milhaud's Fifth Symphony, the *Distur* for wind, although it would per- haps have been more valu- able at this early stage in the pro- gramme to be heard more than one of his fleetingly whim-

sical miniatures to enable a relatively unprepared audience to catch and savour their idiom.

The real test of the evening came in Mozart's *Divertimento* in E flat, K.267. Performances of these lesser-known, slighter wind serenades can often slip into the mechanical yet erratic pleasantness of a Vi- ennese musical clock if the witty, artful twists and turns of the repertoire are not caught, re- lished and turned into alert and lively musical conversation.

It was here, particularly in the outer two movements, that the group's lack of close-knit musical purpose was most apparent. After the interval the smell of the theatre in Donizetti's *Sinfonia* in G minor seemed to warm the players' blood some- what and get them well blown in for what was musically and interpretatively far the most satisfying piece of the evening, the 1952 revised version of Stravinsky's *Octet*.

The smaller grouping and the classical discipline of the writ- ings seemed to urge the group to a greater sensitivity and seriousness of purpose; the "accato and legato contrasts of the opening *Sinfonia* were sharply etched; the bright, multicoloured sparkles of criss- crossing rhythmic and melodic patterns in its variations fired from a controlled and potent source of inner energy.

But the evening as a whole was disappointingly lacking in imperious, its ultimately insubstantial programme enervated by an ambling, cavalier state- presentation which undoubtedly had its effect on the playing.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

## Bread or Blood BBC 2

Joan Bakewell

As an opening episode it did not get very far. But then it soon became clear that the intention of this rather serious new drama series is not to cover ground, but to state it. For *Bread or Blood* is about the state of affairs that pre- vailed in rural England, more specifically Wiltshire, in the decade after the Napoleonic wars. The episode—barely plotted, sparingly scripted by Peter Ramsley—has been taken by him from W. B. Hudson's book, *A Shepherd's Life*, itself an historical record made early in this century from conversa- tions with villagers whose family recollections reach back to those times.

Without knowing anything of the source one can only credit it with authenticity because the simple story of stag poaching, Bible-reading goodness and wind-lashed poverty rings so compellingly true.

At the same time the series

is in effect highly stylized. The dialogue is minimal. All action reduced to essentials. Charac- terization conveyed by a hard look, a stooped shoulder, a bending head. Music a mere harp, sometimes a pipe and no more. If slow, it is also impressive. But, who knows, by the end of five episodes it may also have become glori- ously parodiable.

In terms of presentation—by Ruth Caleb, the producer, and Peter Smith, the director—it effectively sabotages today's modish fashion for all things "Bread or Blood" has none of those bright scrubbed pine tables, cotton aprons or crisp wicker baskets. Its tables and baskets are worn and dark, its outdoor creep with straw, its time I ever feel like giving up is out of sheer exhaustion." But his energy is safely chan- nelled by his approach to his work, which seems to be very much that of the philosopher- craftsman: reminiscent, in- deed, of Hans Sachs, a role which he still feels uncertain about vocally (it is a higher, bass-baritone role), but which he is obviously drawn to and

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

recasters  
odds on  
rling,  
ge 18

Stock markets  
FT Index 533.5, down 6.1  
FT 100s 69.97, down 0.09

Sterling  
\$2.1690, down 365 pts  
Index 98.7, down 0.8

Dollar  
Index 101.5, up 0.4  
DM 2.1545, up 325 pts

Gold  
\$531.50, up 58

Money  
3-month sterling 12 1/4-12 1/2  
3-month Euro 5 1/4-5 1/2  
6-month Euro 5 1/4-5 1/2

### IN BRIEF

**Rolls-Royce  
ins £8m  
razil jets  
der**

ansBrazil Airlines has  
rmed its intention to  
Rolls-Royce RB211-535-E4  
as to power three Boeing  
passenger jetliners on  
side routes, a Rolls-Royce  
esman said.  
The order is worth almost  
for the installed engines,  
double this amount includ-  
the spares likely to be  
ht. Delivery is expected in  
it 1985.  
and Witney of the  
ed States is to supply  
es for three other Trans-  
it Boeing 757s because the  
s was split between the  
engine suppliers.

**countants seek  
insurance switch**

dical changes in national  
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employed were called for  
oday by the six groups  
seering accountants. They  
d that contributions should  
arnings-related and that an  
mr equivalent to the em-  
s contribution should be  
deductible.

**4m for Vanbrugh**

rough Life, the unit-  
d assurance subsidiary of  
Prudential Corporation, last  
took in £3.4m in personal  
ion plans, as the self-  
loyed set out to beat the  
before the turn of the tax

**al exports double**

al exports, which have  
led in the past year to 4.7  
on tonnes, could rise to  
than eight million tonnes  
year, and may reach 15  
on tonnes by 1985, Euro-  
dian Scandinavia is  
ed to need 170 million  
s of imported coal by 1990  
further 100 million tonnes  
e end of the century, the  
nal Coal Board says.

**krupcies record**

shkness were going into  
ation at a record rate of  
1 week in the first 13 weeks  
e year. This represents a  
er cent increase over the  
period last year. Worst hit  
the building, textiles, car  
engineering industries,  
ding to Dun and Brad-  
st, the credit rating agency.

**rgy saving**

st energy conservation  
ts supported by the  
ment could lead to  
al savings of almost 2  
n tonnes of oil equivalent,  
about £180m.

**ineers' task force**

task force has been set up  
e civil engineering econo-  
development committee to  
ify specific opportunities  
vestment in infrastructure,  
as communications and  
and sewerage schemes.

**orn redundancies**

orn Lighting, part of the  
n EMI group, has made  
120 people redundant at  
Leicester and mailfold  
inery department.

**11 Street setback**

edow Jones industrial  
e closed 12.87 points  
to 994.24. The S&P 500  
was 27. The £ was 0.558982.

## Sterling plunges 3 1/2 cents to lowest close for 12 months

By Frances Williams

The pound took a battering from all sides on world foreign exchange markets yesterday, sinking in London to its lowest closing level against the dollar for a year.

Speculation on an early cut in minimum lending rate reports that the International Monetary Fund is to resume sterling lending and a strengthening dollar all contributed to the pound's tumble.

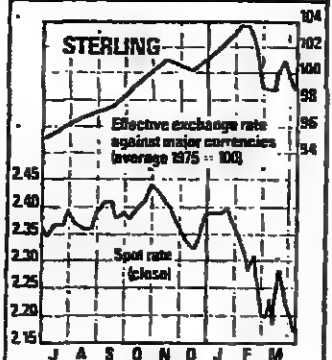
Increasing fears over Soviet intentions towards Poland and higher dollar interest rates sent the dollar soaring against all leading currencies.

The pound finished London trading at its lowest level of the day, down more than 3 1/2 cents from Friday at \$2.1690. It has not traded below \$2.17 since this level at the beginning of April 1980, its low point of the year.

Sterling also lost ground to continental currencies, including the Deutsche mark. Its trade-weighted index, as calculated by the Bank of England, was down 0.8 from Friday at 98.7 (average 1975 = 100).

The pound weakened against the dollar overnight on Sunday along with other currencies in the European Monetary System. But despite Bank of England support it fell back sharply during the day ahead of today's banking figures, on speculation that these will show relatively low monetary growth in March and will thus pave the way for an early cut in minimum lending rate.

Reports at the weekend that the IMF is planning to resume lending in sterling also depressed the pound. It is feared that additional amounts of the currency sold on the foreign exchange markets could depress its value.



The dollar forged ahead steadily throughout the day. Renewed worries about political tensions in Poland encouraged investors to sell European currencies and to put their money into dollars, with considerable interest rate advantages.

The United States currency gained 3 1/2 pence on the Deutsche mark, its highest closing level for a month.

United States interest rates rose further on Monday. The key federal funds rate, at which the banks lend each other reserves, traded at 16 per cent from 15 1/2 per cent on Friday, and Euro-dollar deposit rates also rose sharply.

The rate of interest on three-month deposits was up 1 percentage point from Friday at 15 1/2 to 16 1/2 per cent.

These rises follow publication of the United States wholesale price index for March, which showed a 0.2 per cent increase, and money figures for March which suggest that the American economy and hence credit demand remains buoyant. There were also indications from the Federal Reserve Board that it does not want interest rates to decline too sharply.

## French motor rivals join forces in trucks deal

By Clifford Webb

Peugeot and Renault, the rival French motor groups, have agreed to collaborate in the manufacture and marketing of commercial vehicles throughout Europe.

The deal, which involves Talbot's Dodge truck and bus subsidiary at Dunsbach, will be announced formally within the next two weeks, according to management and union sources on the Continent last night. It will be the first in a series of deals leading to a full merger of Peugeot and Renault commercial vehicle interests.

It is understood that the French Government is making substantial finance available to persuade the traditional rivals to sink their differences and establish a single, strong French trucks group.

Peugeot had a nominal interest in

commercial vehicles until it bought Chrysler Europe two and a half years ago and acquired Chrysler's truck and van factories in Spain and Britain.

In Spain the former Barreiros Company was the leading manufacturer of trucks over 12 tonnes while Dodge United Kingdom—a much smaller company with only 2,000 employees—held about 8 per cent of the British market.

Peugeot initially wanted to talk about plans to become a leading force in commercial vehicles. These had to be hurriedly shelved last year, however, when the group ran into serious financial problems for the first time.

A Brussels-based executive of an international motor group said last night: "The real prize for Renault is the Spanish operation. Spain is still a virtually closed market to motor imports. In the United Kingdom

Renault will get the Dodge distribution network to strengthen its rather weak set-up for Renault trucks and vans."

A spokesman for Talbot United Kingdom said last night: "I cannot confirm or deny this rumour. I have no comment to make."

But Mr George Turnbull, chairman of Talbot United Kingdom, had said recently that Peugeot was looking for partnership deals on commercial vehicles. It is known that talks with Daf, Holland, which is part-owned by International Harvester of America, reached an advanced stage last autumn but collapsed suddenly.

In another move, Talbot said yesterday that it would close its assembly plant in Dublin and cease all trading in the Republic unless the Irish trade unions withdrew an embargo on Talbot imports by April 13. Redundancy notices

have been issued to the 132 employees there.

The embargo was imposed last week in retaliation for Talbot's action in making 90 workers redundant in Dublin. This came after the phasing out of Avenger assembly for export to Britain. The model will disappear altogether when the Linwood plant closes next month.

Talbot tried to get the embargo lifted by offering to place a £17m tyre contract with Dunlop Cork which would have provided work for 90 men. It was rejected by the Irish Government but was rejected by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

Talbot said last night that it had no option but to withdraw completely because the embargo and picketing had prevented it from trading after 36 years in Ireland.

## Shipbuilders and BP condemn Budget tax

From Our Correspondent  
Glasgow

The Government's taxation measures on oil revenues, announced in the last Budget, came in for strong criticism yesterday from senior executives of British Petroleum and British Shipbuilders at the Scott Lithgow yard, in Port Glasgow, when the first Emergency Support Vessel to be launched in the United Kingdom went into the water on time but without ceremony.

At £60m, the contract represents the most valuable order received by British Shipbuilders for a single commercial vessel, intended for day to day support of offshore oilfield operations. It will be provided with the most advanced facilities available to deal with all kinds of platform inspection, maintenance, and service requirements, with capabilities for any emergency.

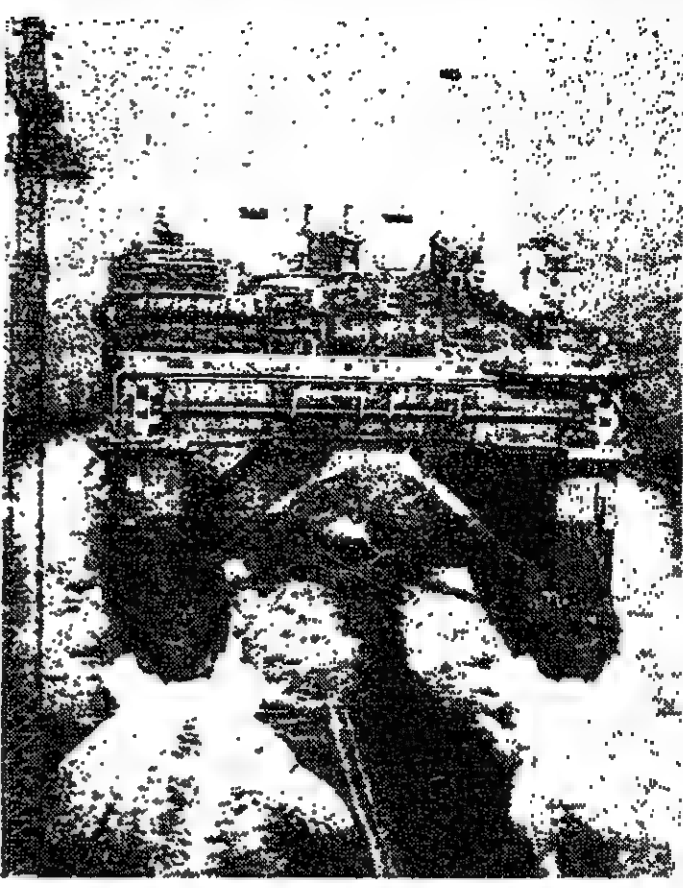
Talair, as it will be named, will serve installations in the Forth and Tisla fields, and it will also be available for similar support in other areas off the north-west European continental shelf.

Mr Cameron Parker, chairman of British Shipbuilders off-

shore division (Scott Lithgow), said that the vessel would be owned and operated 75 per cent by BP, and 25 per cent by the British National Oil Corporation (BNOC), on her delivery in September. British Petroleum had also given Scott Lithgow an order for a 109,000-tonne segregated ballast tanker valued at £35m and a heavy-duty, semi-submersible drilling rig valued at £55m.

Mr Parker said that they now viewed with grave uneasiness the recent changes in taxation policy by the Treasury resulting in the postponement by Occidental of their Claymore 3 field with a floating production rig. This was a serious blow to the offshore division.

They had read with mounting concern statements from Shell, BNOC, and most recently from Sir David Steel, chairman of BP, that the taxation changes might lead to a slowing down of investment plans, and that depending on discussions with the Government over future taxation policies a decision by BP to shelve an offshore project could come in the next few months.



The emergency support vessel Talair is launched at Scott Lithgow's yard in Port Glasgow.

## UK owners place orders with foreign shipyards

By Our Industrial Editor

British shipyards, faced with the prospect of industrial action over planned compulsory redundancies, have less than 18 months' work, while owners have turned to foreign yards for their new ships.

Orders placed by United Kingdom shipping companies with foreign shipbuilding nations—especially South Korea and Japan—have risen to their highest level for years, totalling 1.2 million tons gross and equivalent to more than double the inflow of orders into home shipyards last year.

The latest annual report of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, published yesterday, revealed that United Kingdom owners have more than 500,000 tons of ships on order in South Korea and 289,000 tons from Japanese yards.

Other foreign shipbuilders benefiting from the industry's orders include Brazil, Poland and Italy, and 80 per cent of the ships now on order for United Kingdom registration are bulk carriers.

Lloyd's said that last year the decline of the British shipbuilding industry had been further accentuated and it now ranked eleventh in the league table of orders.

With the flow of orders last year amounting to 500,000 tons gross, output for the year was the lowest since 1933 and the lowest since records were kept.

Irrespective of the factors which have contributed to a situation where United Kingdom shipyards have less than eighteen months' work, there can be no consolation whatsoever in the fact that more than 1.2 million tons gross is on order elsewhere in the world for the United Kingdom flag, the highest figure for many years," Lloyd's commented.

Although the United Kingdom industry fared less well than its main competitors, Lloyd's said that last year provided every indication that an overall improvement in the fortunes of the industry was under way with the volume of orders placed last year worldwide reaching their highest level since 1974.

## Petroleum exchange off to a brisk start

By Our Commodities  
Correspondent

London's newest commodity market, the International Petroleum Exchange, got off to a brisk start on its first day yesterday by trading 1,779 100-tonne lots of heating oil futures.

Mr Robin Woodhead, chairman of the market, said: "It is very encouraging for the first day. He said that a promising feature of the market was the number of oil trade users."

The June contract closed at \$304.50 after opening as predicted at \$300 and reaching \$305 at one point during the day. After allowing for the number of crossed contracts, the final trade totalled about 1,200 contracts.

Dealers felt that the willingness of the oil trade to test the new contracts was especially encouraging because the Rotterdam spot market was quiet for most of the day.

One trader said: "People are

much more convinced about the market now that they realize its hedging possibilities." The founders of the IPE have always argued that the market's success largely rests on oil traders and majors using it as a prices hedge.

The IPE trades futures contracts for heating oil, also known as gas oil, in lots of 100 tonnes. "The contract is close to the New York Mercantile Exchange. New York prices were active yesterday, possibly encouraged by activity in London."

Contracts can be traded up to nine months ahead of the first delivery month, which is June. Oil for delivery in January, 1982, was fetching \$335 a tonne.

Mr Woodhead expects that after the initial interest trading will taper off during the week. If a daily turnover of about 200 lots can be attained fairly soon, he believes, the market will have established itself.

## Esso 'delay' hits shale oil shares

By Michael Prest

Esso has sounded a note of caution over prospects for the infant oil-from-shale industry by seeking renegotiation of the agreement for developing the big Rundle oil shale deposits in Queensland, Australia.

The oil major told its two Australian partners in the scheme, Central Pacific Minerals and Southern Pacific Petroleum, that it wants to reconsider whether the next stage at Rundle should be a \$2,100m (£1,100m) pilot plant.

Yesterday's announcement from Esso brought the shares sharply down. CPM, which had been AS11 in October, slumped to close in London at AS2.85. SPP after fetching AS4 in October, ended the day at AS1.15. CPM and SPP each has 25 per cent of the deposit, while Esso has 50 per cent.

Esso has told its partners that it will soon propose a plan whereby the pilot stage could be dropped and the project will proceed directly to a commercial plant after laboratory and other investigations.

The Esso move is widely regarded in Australian financial circles as a delaying tactic. It is pointed out that the Rundle deposits—at north and south Rundle—have become more and more expensive to exploit while real oil prices have barely risen.

At present costs, a 50,000 barrel a day plant—the minimum at which the deposit would be economical—could require an investment of AS10,000m. The 280,000 barrel a day plant which was envisaged in the heads of last year might cost AS15,000m.

Sources also suggest that Esso may be trying to put political pressure on the Australian Government to raise the price of its oil from the Bass Strait. Esso is the biggest producer from this offshore field, but only receives the equivalent of about US\$14 a barrel.

Rundle contains estimated reserves of about 2,000 million barrels of oil. The share prices of CPM and SPP have risen strongly in recent years on expectations that the deposit would be commercially developed. British investors are heavy buyers of the shares.

Under the 1980 agreement Esso would have provided most of the enormous finance. The plan envisaged a first stage during which 25,000 tonnes of ore would be extracted daily to feed the pilot plant.

## IMF chief calls for tough stand against trade protectionism

From Frank Vogl  
US Economics Correspondent  
Washington, April 6

Mr Jacques De Larosiere, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, called yesterday for tough anti-protectionist and money policies in industrial nations.

He gave a warning at a banking conference that protectionism and currency rate manipulation were the causes of the economic problems of the 1930s and he said: "One major challenge for the fund today is to assist in averting a repetition of that disastrous period."

Mr De Larosiere said that the fund's policy analysis over the last two years had concluded that the industrial economies must give priority to the control of inflation by constraining money demand within the limits of domestic output and the availability of sustainable external finance.

He said that the balance of payments problems of all oil importing nations were increasing and that the average deficit of these countries in 1980-81 would be over 7 per cent of their gross national product, compared to a rate of 3 per cent in the early 1970s.

Providing sufficient loans to



Mr Jacques De Larosiere: IMF must help to avert a repetition of the 1930s.

these countries was a prime concern for the fund. The managing director said that difficulties in the negotiations on securing IMF quota increases meant that it would be "several years" before the fund's resources were increased by this means. But he was optimistic about borrowing from the conditions set on its lending were to strengthen the framework for sustained long-term growth in its member countries.

## Hawley Leisure in £18m merger

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Michael Ashcroft, a 36-year-old entrepreneur, is to merge his public company interests, Hawley Leisure and Provincial, formerly Provincial Landscapes.

Hawley, a sports goods retailer and amusement machines company, is to make an £18.2m takeover offer in ordinary shares for Provincial.

On a pro-forma basis the merged group, of which Mr Ashcroft will be the executive chairman, would have a market value of about £40m.

The rationale of the deal, according to Mr Ashcroft, is that the new company would be engaged in the provision of services ranging from retailing and leisure to building maintenance.

After a capital reorganization of Hawley, three new Hawley shares will be offered for every five in Provincial.

This represents a one-for-one share exchange prior to the capital reorganization, and values each Provincial share, at 50p.

Mr Ashcroft came into the

public limelight just over three years ago when he acquired stakes in Hawley and Provincial. A series of takeover bids by both companies followed, and last year Provincial acquired a stake of just over 20 per cent in Pritchard Services, a large industrial cleaning and contracting group.

The possibility of a bid by the new Hawley group, should the deal announced yesterday go through, is not ruled out. Pritchard shares gained 3p to 166p in a dull stock market.

Financial Editor, page 19

## Piety and profit hand in hand, as Hodder buys New English Library Harold Robbins joins Enid Blyton 'stable'

Reminding the reselling of books that can no longer be sold at full prices, in a time of recession. The list of the lame brought low by slump, a strong pound, public spending cuts and high interest rates is long, and it is led by such distinguished names as Penguin and BPC. For a time, the biggest publisher of the lot, William Collins, was among that number.

But one name is absent, Hodder and Stoughton, far from shrinking before this recession, is deliberately expanding into paperback to a paperback list that already Coroner, Knight (for children) and the Teach Yourself series.

The seller (for £2.4m) was the American Times Mirror Company of Los Angeles, whose main interests are in broadcasting and newspapers. New English Library, a United Kingdom subsidiary must have seemed a sickly infant that would not grow up. Times Mirror will not miss such a tiny member of its family.

How has Hodder, a public antiquated chairman, succeeded where others are struggling to survive? Because it married

piety to profit. Matthew Hodder and Cecil Wilberforce Stoughton, founders in 1868, did well by doing good. They set up in the City's Paternoster Row, published a series of theological works, books like *Assurance of Man, Natural Law in the Spiritual World*, and the *Expositor's Bible* (in 49 volumes). Non-religious books were also sold, but only of the "improving" kind, such as President Garfield's *From Log Cabin to White House*.

These Victorians had no trouble uniting God and Mammon. Matthew's grandson, Sir John Ernest Hodder-Williams produced a lavish edition of Omar Khayyam. Grandfather complained of "heavenly rubbish". But Sir Ernest replied: "It has shown a profit of £800 in the past 12 months."

Matthew Hodder (after a long silence): "You will be careful, Ernest my boy, won't you?"

He was, and his successors were too. After Sapper and A. E. W. Mason in the twenties, their authors included Leslie Charteris, creator of the Saint in the thirties and in the forties, Captain W. E. Johns, creator of Biggles, and Enid Blyton.

They also published many books on cricket. Today they have John Le Carré, James Clavell and former MP turned best seller, Jeffrey Archer.

The New English Library brings them (among others) Harold Robbins and Irwin Shaw as well as Robert Heinlein in science fiction. The alliance of piety and pishrude, of brotherly love and lust is stronger than ever.

In the language of money that Hodder knows so well, New English Library brings the group sales of around £6m. In its best years it is understood to have made modest profits, but can hardly be making them now. The price is £2.4m after elimination of New English Library borrowings.

Hodder, despite its stress on paperback which have done better than hardbacks in the slump, saw profits halved to around £70,000 in the year to March 1980 and are unlikely to be good now. Clearly its existing turnover of £19m can support more profit when the going gets better. Meanwhile it stays rough.

Peter Wainwright

### PRICE CHANGES

ES					
in Hill	30p to 800p				
versley	10p to 250p				
Wesley Con	10p to 195p				
Boide	11p to 250p				
IS					
al Rue	10p to 705p				
al Elect	10p to 409p				
nti	10p to 585p				
any Travel	10p to 673p				
	10p to 247p				

### THE POUND

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	buy	sell	buy	sell
alia \$	1.95	1.96	Norway Kr	12.39
la Sch	35.00	35.00	Portugal Esc	128.00
un Fr	83.50	79.50	South Africa Rd	2.07
la \$	2.64	2.55	Spain Pta	194.00
ark Kr	15.40	14.60	Sweden Kr	10.65
nt Alik	9.42	8.57	Switzerland Fr	4.44
te Fe	11.40	10.80	USA \$	2.17
any DM	4.87	4.63	Yugoslavia Dnr	83.50
z Dr	116.00	110.00		
kong \$	12.10	11.50		
nt Pd	1.33	1.27		
Lir	2385.00	2285.00		
Li	493.00	468.00		
riands Gld	5.39	5.13		

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

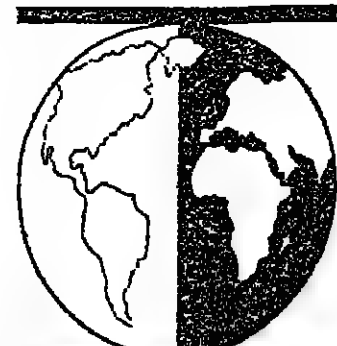
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## Food output challenge in Latin America

Latin America will have to double its energy output over the next 10 years and produce nearly half as much again of food as it does now, if it is to meet the challenge of its increasing population, the president of the Inter-American Development Bank, Mr Antonio Ortiz Mena, said in Madrid yesterday.

Speaking at the start of the 22nd annual meeting of the bank's board of governors, Mr Ortiz Mena said that Latin America would need financial help from industrialized countries outside the region.

"The magnitude of the financial needs of the region and of the risks facing Latin America, particularly in the energy sector, are well beyond the capability of existing mechanisms for generating and transferring financial and technical resources," he said.

The annual meeting was the first held outside the western hemisphere since the bank was founded in 1959.

Mr Ortiz Mena said that in each year of this decade nearly 3.7 million new workers would enter the Latin American labour market. Unemployment rates would range from 35 to 50 per cent in many countries. "The fundamental challenge in the social field today is to create new job opportunities," he said.

### Iran trucks plant

Japan's Nissan Motor Co and Toyota Motor Co plan to start assembling small trucks in Iran again after the lifting in January of economic sanctions against Iran.

### Oil search rethink

Because of the increasing cost of searching for oil, Australia may reexamine its policy on foreign participation, Mr Al Grivetti, vice president of Conoco Incorporated Petroleum Exploration, said. At present, the government requires companies in this sector to be at least 50 per cent Australian-controlled.

### Krupp plant for Egypt

A United States subsidiary of Fried Krupp, the West German steel and heavy industrial group, is to construct a cement plant in Egypt worth more than 200m Deutschmarks (\$42.7m).

The Polysius Corporation of America, a subsidiary of Krupp Polysius, a heavy installations company belonging to the Krupp group, received the order from the Suez Cement Company.

### China assures Japan

China has assured a visiting Japanese mission, representing five large companies, that it will take delivery of plant ordered from Japan, rescinding its earlier decision to cancel orders under its suspension of modernisation projects.

Mr Masao Sakurai, leader of the mission said that China would now live up to its contracts with Japanese firms and take delivery of plant already ordered.

### W German steel output

West German crude steel production in March rose 12.1 per cent to 3.83 million tons from February, according to preliminary figures released by the Federal Statistics Office. Crude steel production in the first quarter of 1981 stood at 10.43 million tons, off 10.1 per cent from the first quarter figure of the year earlier.

### Far East oil find

China and Japan have struck oil in the southern part of Bohai Bay, the Japan-China Oil Development Corporation said. The company said it discovered promising oil reserves in the first test drilling in an area about 190km off Tientsin.

### Canadian car imports

The Canadian wing of the United Auto Workers union wants Canada to halve Japanese car imports by applying a quota and shelving planned cuts in car import tariffs.

### French prices rise

France's retail prices rose 1 per cent in March to give a year on year gain of 15.8 per cent, according to figures from the Confederation Generale du Travail.

### 'Optimistic' consumers

American consumers are more optimistic about future business and employment prospects, a survey showed yesterday. But it found that consumers remain generally unimpressed with business conditions.

### Chile sells up

Chile will return eight state-owned companies to private ownership this year, either fully or partly, in line with its policy of scrapping government monopolies and restrictions to private enterprise.

### Joint Gulf industry

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have started joint projects to develop their petrochemical and iron and steel industries.

Miscalculation of sterling value could jeopardize inflation strategy

## Forecasters at odds on the pound

The extreme volatility of world foreign exchange markets in recent weeks—with yesterday's reaction to moving from over Poland the latest example—clearly illustrates the difficulties of trying to predict what is going to happen to exchange rates in the future.

In the past couple of months the most extraordinary forecasts for the value of the pound over the next two years or so have been published, some of which are shown in the table. Yet, what happens to sterling is of critical importance to the future of British industry and to the Government's economic strategy.

After the battering many businesses have received from the 25 per cent rise in sterling over the past two years, industry will be hoping for a lower exchange rate to improve competitiveness and profitability.

The Government, while publicly acknowledging that sterling is uncomfortably high for industry, will be anxious to avoid a precipitous decline in the exchange rate which would put up prices and place its counter-inflation strategy at risk.

Neither side will derive much comfort from the knowledge that two of the most highly respected forecasting organizations in the country are predicting substantial and diametrically opposed movements in sterling over the next two years.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research, sees the effective exchange rate rising by over 14 per cent between 1980 and 1982, with beneficial effects on the inflation rate. But the Centre for Economic Forecasting at the London Business School predicts a fall of more than 9 per cent over the same period.

The Treasury, in its forecast accompanying the Budget, assumes the exchange

### FORECASTS FOR EFFECTIVE STERLING EXCHANGE RATE

	Percentage change on 1980 on 1981 on 1982	1981	1982	1983
National Institute of Economic and Social Research	+8.9	+4.8	+14.3	
Laing & Cruickshank Economist	+8.3	-0.4	+7.9	
Intelligence Unit Treasury	+3.3	0	+3.3	
Liverpool Research Group	-2.3	+1.4	-0.9	
Henley Centre for Forecasting	+3.7	-4.5	-1.0	
Confederation of British Industry	+2.4	-4.1	-1.8	
Maxwell Stamp	+1.5	-6.7	-5.3	
Forax	0	-7.1	-7.1	
Phillips & Drew	0	-7.2	-7.2	
London Business School	+2.5	-11.7	-9.3	

rate to remain unchanged (from an unspecified level) over the next 18 months.

Getting the future value of sterling wrong can make a substantial difference to forecasts for output, trade, company profits and inflation.

Cambridge Econometrics, the commercial arm of the University of Cambridge Growth Project (not to be confused with Mr Wynne Godley's Cambridge Economic Policy Group), recently estimated that over three years a 10 per cent drop in the value of the pound would boost output by 3 per cent (mainly through its effects in boosting exports), save 400,000 jobs and swell company profits by £2,000m. A devaluation of this order might also add 3 to 4 percentage points to the Retail Price Index.

Relative inflation rates and competitive ness, international interest rate differentials and countries' balance of payments positions have all been advanced at varying times as the principal explanations of currency movements. On all these counts the pound might be expected to fall in the coming year or so.

But Britain's self-sufficiency in oil means that the pound is likely to benefit from increases in oil prices. Mr John Kay, of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, said recently that oil had already pushed up the pound's value by some 30 per cent. Some economists—termed international monetarists—who include the London Business School's Centre for Economic Forecasting and Professor Alan Walters, Mrs Thatcher's economic adviser, believe that the exchange rate reacts to the tightness or laxness of monetary policy and this too is taken into account in a number of forecasts.

The recent track record of exchange rate forecasts has nevertheless been pretty dismal. They are just not very good at predicting market behaviour which depends crucially on expectations and sentiment, and on political as well as economic events. None of the leading forecasters, the Treasury, included, foresaw the huge rise in the pound over the past two years.

It is little wonder that ministers and officials in the Treasury and Bank of England are looking with increasing interest at the relative stability seemingly offered by membership of the European Monetary System.

Fixing the exchange rate, whatever its other consequences, would at least remove a worrying source of uncertainty for those who have to take decisions about our economic future.

Frances Williams

## Chemical industry seeks change in policies to avert 'disaster'

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Britain's chemical industry leaders yesterday urged the Government to change its policies and save the industry from a "disastrous" short-term future.

Chemical companies, which have shed more than 20,000 jobs over the past 12 months and said that thousands more were threatened this year, stressed that unless radical short-term changes were made, the industry would be unable to grasp future opportunities.

The warning comes in a detailed survey from the Chemical Industry Economic Development Committee (Little Noddy) issued by its chairman, Lord Allen of Hallfield.

The industry, which claims to be the country's most suc-

cessful with growth prospects, and to be the largest single contributor to the balance of payments, was unable to cope alone, according to this survey.

Factors cited by the tripartite committee for the industry's present malaise included "grave problems" of uncompetitive costs stemming from the high value of sterling, the slump in the home market, expensive energy and reduced cash flow.

In what amounted to one of the toughest demands for the Government to modify its economic policies, the survey said that ministers should recognize the strength of the chemical industry and its long-term potential.

Action was necessary to re-

duce the energy cost disadvantages of United Kingdom chemical companies and improve their international competitiveness by ensuring that gas prices to the industry were no higher than those applying generally in the EEC. Factors for large electricity consumers operating at high load factor should be reviewed, and the 58-per-cent tax on heavy fuel oil should be removed, the committee said.

It urged the Government to maintain its pressure on the United States Administration for early deregulation of natural gas prices, and stated that natural gas used as a feed stock by United Kingdom chemical companies should be internationally priced.

Chemicals, Contraction or Growth, NEDO Books.

## Little hope for improvement in retail sales

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

Two new analyses of likely retail trade performance this year—one from the Retail Consortium—continue to take a gloomy view of overall prospects for this year, but a modest profits growth in food retailing is thought possible.

Widening of gross margins in food retailing, mainly arising from the development by so many multiples of their fresh food ranges, is forecast by Phillips & Drew, the London brokers, in their latest retail commentary.

The Phillips & Drew argument has become a familiar one with the trade but it is not necessarily decisive. Given the commitment of the multiples to expensive store building programmes, mostly of super-

stores, the sector can hardly afford a new price war, Phillips & Drew say.

In 1982, after a "modest" widening of gross margins this year, the stores sector could be expected to widen such margins further. This would seem necessary given the substantial erosion of net margins in the past three years, the brokers say.

Widened gross margins this year arising from the bigger switch to fresh foods has also been looked for in the trade. Gross margins on fresh food are often more than double those in packaged groceries and alcoholic drinks, which produce 10 per cent or less gross margins, according to one of the big multiples.

The Retail Consortium, in its

latest report, states: "Retailers will not fare well in 1981. The competition for limited consumer spending will be intense at a time when costs are continuing to rise. Profitability will suffer."

The question being asked in the trade is how long such margins can last now that so many multiples are increasing their commitment to fresh foods.

Delicatessen and fresh fruit and vegetables can produce gross margins of up to 25 per cent compared with 18 per cent and 12 per cent from frozen foods and dairy products respectively. But fresh fish can produce gross margins of about 50 per cent.

Mainstays, the superstores division recently launched by BAT Industries, has already announced that as well as making

## Engineering 'starved' of orders

By Edward Townsend

The plight of Britain's engineering industries has been confirmed in the latest government statistics which show that factories are being starved of orders and that the declining home sales and exports.

At the end of 1980, total sales by the engineering industries were down by 3 per cent on 1979 while the volume of orders-on-hand dropped by 12 per cent.

A recent report, published by the Engineering Employers' Federation, forecast that, for the mechanical engineering sector, export orders would continue to decline in 1981 after last year's drop of 16 per cent and that a modest upturn in business would not occur until 1982.

When a company ploughs back its earnings it can issue bonus shares to its shareholders without tax liability at the time and they are added to the growth of assets. Since 1978 it can also issue bonus shares to its workers free of tax—up to £500 worth a year in 1978 with the limit increased to £1,000 in 1980.

The members of an industrial cooperative are both its shareholders and its workers; but if an industrial cooperative issues bonus shares to its worker members they are liable to tax at their full personal rate. This kind of discrimination against cooperatives and the Government claims that it tries to avoid doing this.

Mr Nigel Lawson claimed on July 3 last that the 1978 tax concession with regard to the issue of shares to workers could apply to industrial cooperatives but some minor changes are needed in the 1978 Finance Act if it is to apply. The Treasury appears unwilling to make these adjustments in spite of a request from the Co-operative Development Agency.

Mr Peter Rees in his innocence appears to imagine that

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Archbishop's attack on the City's role

From Mr Peter H. G. Cadbury

Sir, I believe I am not alone in being astonished by the general nature of the Archbishop of York's attack on the City of London, and those who work in it, contained in his Lenten address broadcast last Sunday. The theme of his address was the Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal", and his message was that, in this context, the activities of those who work in the City can be equated with the Great Train Robbers, both being equally guilty of stealing, but whereas the Train Robbers received long jail sentences, the Archbishop's attack on the City workers receives honours and respect from the community for their dishonest acts. What categorized the Archbishop's attack, however, was that he did not single out for censure those who committed white collar crimes such as insider dealing, but instead he chose to make a general attack on the City's legitimate activities.

To the Archbishop the City appears to exist just to manipulate money markets and to make takeover bids for the benefit of the employees of City organizations. In fact, the chief beneficiaries from takeovers are, of course, the shareholders of public companies, who to an increasing extent are institutions such as the Church Commissioners and the Central Board of Finance. The Archbishop clearly does not appreciate that, like any other professional adviser, those who advise on takeovers are normally paid a straight salary in no way linked to the outcome of a particular transaction, and any other benefits they receive probably fall far short of the

perks given to Archbishops. The City is also not just about takeovers and money markets. An increasing role for the City is, for example, working with third world countries to raise finance and advise on projects designed to improve the economies of developing countries. Admittedly, such work is rarely conducted for charitable purposes, but if the result is a project which will provide employment and a higher standard of living to the people of a poor country, as well as assisting its balance of payments, then surely this is at least as effective as preaching about the third world from the security of a cathedral pulpit.

A major reason why the City stands pre-eminent in the financial world, at present, stems from the impartiality of the advice and the high standard of business ethics for which the City can justifiably be proud. Of course, there will always be people who fall short of these standards, just as even a few clergymen may also prove wanting. However, if the Church of England wishes to cast out as thieves all who work in the City, then it is comforting to know that there are other Christian sects, such as the Quakers, who will welcome them, and who can demonstrate that business life and Christian ethics can still coexist. Unlike the Archbishop, then, at least, do still believe that to strive after high moral standards in business or commercial life is worthy and a Christian ideal.

Yours faithfully,  
P. H. G. CADBURY,  
9 Selwood Terrace,  
London, SW7.  
April 1.

## Incentives for industrial cooperatives

From Mr Paul Derrick

Sir, Mr John Hands is surely right in arguing that industrial cooperatives should be encouraged; so why does the Chancellor discriminate against them and discourage them from ploughing back as high a proportion of earnings as the companies with which they compete?

Such naivety is incredible. In fact, of course, the worker has a much greater incentive to identify himself with the enterprise for which he works in an industrial cooperative than in any employee shareholding scheme. He owns the enterprise and shares in its fortunes in proportion to work contributed. The Mondragon cooperatives have shown how workers' participation in the growth of assets can encourage high investment; but the British Government chooses to discriminate against industrial cooperatives and penalize the workers' own enterprises by effectively excluding them from the 1978 concession with regard to tax liability when shares are issued to workers.

Mr Rees should state the way in which industrial cooperatives are taxed in France. The Mondragon cooperatives have suggested that the same kind of arrangements should apply throughout the EEC.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL DERRICK,  
30 Wandsworth Bridge Road,  
London, SW6.  
April 3.

## Funds for biotechnology

From Dr M. W. Fowler

Sir, The Government have just published a White Paper on biotechnology (notable in its use of large amounts of biomass rather than for any positive contribution it makes suggesting that industry in the United Kingdom should provide resources for the development of that science in this country. I was therefore aghast to read in *The Sunday Times* of March 29 that Grand Metropolitan Hotels had made a contribution of £4m to the coffers of Biogen, a Swiss based research organization. While I have a great respect for the scientists and the number of laboratories in the United Kingdom active in various areas of biotechnology who could have made excellent use

of such investment and have probably produced an earlier return through commercialization. Half the figure put up by Grand Metropolitan would have set up most of the big university biotechnology operations in this country for the next ten years.

So much for the Government asking United Kingdom industry to invest in developing science in their own country. The cynical logic is that those of us with large contract research operations in the United Kingdom universities should decamp to Geneva or Zurich, and apply to United Kingdom companies from there.

Yours in great sadness,  
M. W. FOWLER,  
Institute Director,  
Wolfson Institute of Biotechnology,  
University of Sheffield.

## The challenge of selling

From Mr E. H. White

Sir, I recently suffered similar experiences to those of Mr James Pilditch (April 3). I was in the market for a new car in the middle of February and called at the showrooms of the two principal franchise holders for a large British manufacturer. In both cases, I had to hang about looking at cars on display for some ten or so minutes before I was approached by a member of staff. I described my requirements as to model, colour, etc.

Both salesmen (so-called) told me that they could not offer delivery in less than four months. I indicated that I required the car now. No effort was made by either man to interest me in anything else from a very wide range or to see if any other dealer in the country had what I wanted in stock. It seems that generally, these motor car salesmen are merely order-takers.

In contrast, I walked the few yards to the used car department of the second dealer. Here, the young man who attended to me could not have been more helpful. He

obviously intended to sell me a car if he could and he did. I spent some three thousand pounds less than I had intended and came away with a very new car of different model, but well satisfied with the deal I had been able to do.

Before my retirement, I was frequently involved in selling in the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade. Any potential customer was a challenge. He might give the impression that what I was offering did not interest him, but he simply had to go in my sales tick book. If he did not then I was falling down on the job and not doing my best for my employer. Incidentally, I was not paid on a commission basis.

Mr Pilditch's last paragraph sums it all up. It is not all unions and restrictive practices that have brought us to our present sorry state. What we need is more people doing the job for which they are paid and doing

it well.  
Yours faithfully,  
E. H. WHITE,  
72 Orchard Hill,  
Little Billing,  
Northampton NN3 4AG  
April 3.

## More cost effective job creation

From Mr Peter Ward

Sir, It was most encouraging to learn from your "Chipmunks" column (April 1) the Department of Industry's plan to set up a new technology centre for indigenous technology. It is better than overdependence on inward investment, means of creating real jobs.

A company, complex central services, drawn development area or zone is always welcome, in this case it is likely to be elsewhere in the Kingdom, presumably a other area's expense. I national viewpoint, investment suggests the source is overseas and development a branch of more questionable benefit. There must be more effective ways of job creation. Not only are the times costly in terms of money but the spread geographically competing try-attraction agencies, tier, but also more time, but also more usually the first to close times of trouble.

Of course, there have notable successes, 18 Greenock for example; history of branch-factories is disturbing and a study, from Joy Manu (Inverclyde 1977) to (Tyne and Wear 1981) with parent companies United States.

More experience is not able and it is clear that has given careful thought the choice of Britain base in Europe. On the announcement, co was cautious, with only a slight glance (one a slightly raised) at the allocated to EL a day before. More pertinent the reports that followed afterwards.

First, there came a re to industrial action, in at the impending close EL's plant in Belgis Seneffe; and then the that Peugeot-Citroen planning to withdraw Linwood, lopping the branch, as Carlyle may said, to preserve the true.

There is a nice irony choice of Talbot for the company's United Kingdom. Brought up on Ki Marque, Brought up on remember, Castillon, a large English army was destroyed. It was the battle in the Hundred War when, apart from hold in Calais, the E were finally driven o France. The name of defeated commander, killed in the action?—Sir Talbot.

PETER WARD,

Trilo,  
South Road,  
South Godstone,  
Surrey RH9 8LE.  
April 1.

## Radioactivity of coal fires

From Dr S. J. Peartless

Sir, One important fact re to the general discussion energy policy now proceeds not yet to be known and even less appreciated. I refer to radioactivity released from coal. Coal contains small quantities of uranium and thorium, together their "daughter" products. Although the proportion these substances are as small, because of enormous quantities of consumed by a power station, the absolute quantities of activity released to the sphere are significant. actual amount depends of source of the coal and efficacy of the equipment to clean the discharge.

Service estimates indicate that a typical American fired station emits many more radioactivity than average nuclear station similar capacity.

Before any large increase coal-burning is undertaken this country, it would surely wise to carry out similar calculations for British coal-exhaust-treatment plants.

These radioactive discharges are of course, in addition the very large quantities chemical pollutants discharged by coal-fired stations. Most your readers will still remember the atmospheric pollution of pre-nuclear days. Coal burning has been improving, of course, partly by improvements in cleaning, partly by the expedient of spreading pollution over a wider area in taller exhaust stacks.

In this respect at least, large long-term increases in burning would be a serious movement. Coal surely has an important place in our future economy, but as a nuclear feedstock and particularly as a basis for liquid production, rather than as input to the complex crude processes occurring even modern coal-burn power stations.

Yours faithfully,  
S. J. PEARTLESS,  
Department of Engineering,  
Imperial College of Science,  
Technology and Mechanics,  
Exhibition Road,  
London SW7 2BX.  
March 31, 1981.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## As sterling begins to falter...

Concern over the Polish situation partly dented the movement of European funds on the dollar yesterday. But it was not the reason. Dollar interest rates were again, and last Friday's disappointing United States wholesale price figures will support the view that interest rates may solidify around present levels for the moment.

Meanwhile, sterling's weakness, at the moment is not simply a reflection of a weaker pound. The pound faltered against other major currencies too as speculation resented that March banking figures due in April could justify an early reduction in interest rates.

Whether that will prove the case will be clear this afternoon but in the domestic market at least there is a wide range of views as to what the Bank of England will do to say about the indicated growth of 1.5 per cent in March. They vary from a fall of 1 per cent to a rise of 1½ per cent.

On outcome towards either end of that range could have a significant impact on gilt-edged market. The market, as I noted yesterday, is not quite sure where it is going at the moment, and the March wholesale price figures will not have helped make up its mind.

ghland Distilleries

### Post-Budget ingover

In The Famous Grouse brand has been able to prevent profits tumbling earthwards at Highland Distilleries. The industry has been sent reeling under the effects of recession and customer destocking.

Interim profits are down almost a fifth (£2.46m) while an 8 per cent fall at the interest level after a 16 per cent sales rise shows what has happened to the industry.

At home, at least, The Famous Grouse distilleries to reverse the industry trend. Income has increased by a tenth; market share in England has risen by perhaps two points to 8 per cent. But exports fell 20 per cent although there has been a 7 per cent increase in the first three months of the calendar year which suggests an end to the United States destocking phase.

At Highland has been particularly hard by a slump in sales of new fillings and are malts reflecting action by the big distillers to minimize stock financing in the face of a possible slump in demand this year of as much as 10 per cent.

Meanwhile, in the eerie silence in the distilling trade following the 60p-a-bottle price increase, Highland reports its distilleries are operating at just over 50 per cent of capacity. Prospects that could move as retailers' pre-Budget stocks are off.

Meanwhile, meanwhile, remains fairly soaring, although interest charges bleed to £584,000 at the six months stage capital expenditure dropped by two-thirds during the period.

Profits this year could reach £5m against £1m and the shares, having underperformed the market by almost 50 per cent since the Hiram Walker bid for the group blocked last year, now seem to be rising. Down 1p to 96p yesterday they are a likely p/e ratio of around 13 rising to 25 on a full-tax basis and yield per cent assuming the final payment, the interim, is only maintained.

However, there must be hope that by the end of this year Highland will scent sufficient recovery in the industry to increase dividend which was 1½ times covered by year's earnings on a current cost basis.

dent Television

### Nothing can certain

ent and the Independent Broadcasting Authority have been at each other's throats since the group was ordered to give control of its two franchise areas, Shire and Tyne Tees, when the new acts were allocated at the end of last year.

A delay suggests that there are still problems over the two contracts and the IBA's assertions in its latest report that it has arrived at proposals should enable it to meet the IBA's line this week, shareholders should not be that Trident's arguments, particularly over the financial viability of the shire, have forced the IBA to see the light of its ways.

At stake are jobs and millions of pounds in revenue for the industry. The demand from the public, MacArthur is saying, is for patriotic, rather than sexy, motifs on Tee-shirts, tablecloths, handkerchiefs and so on. Sounds ghastly to me, but business is business.

But the Lord Maclean is not a man of business. Chamberlain since 1971, he is a retired Scots Guards major, former Chief Scout and convener of the Standing Committee of Scottish Chiefs. He is also a do-gooder of an Andean scale, but on this occasion he is not doing the British textile industry any favours.

George Richardson, the chief executive of Oxford University Press, has an embarrassing row on his hands after the delegates

turned down a don's commissioned manuscript. The don is Anthony Mocker, a research fellow at St Antony's and the work is *Haile Selassie's Wars*, an abridged translation from a longer work by Mocker published in Italy.

The furious Mocker has now advertised in *The Spectator* asking other authors who had their contracts "dishonoured/infringed" by OUP to get in touch with him. He was not available for comment last night.

Like many publishers now, OUP is cutting down on titles published for commercial reasons, so other disaffected dons might rally to his standard.

OUP said last night that Mocker's book was rejected because "the treatment of the subject was unsuccessful academically".

### Wallchart

OUR COMPANY SECURITY OFFICER SUSPECTS THAT THERE IS A 'MOLE' IN THE ORGANISATION

### OF COURSE, HE DIDN'T TELL ME THAT....

IT WAS TOLD TO ME IN CONFIDENCE BY....

### THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT RADIO STATIONS

Underwise: the most unusual complaint received by John Beighton, chief inspector of the Alkali and Clean Air Inspectorate, in 1979 was from "a resident" who claimed that the udders of one of his goats had turned black because of fluoride poisoning. The Min of Ag found nothing and the goat got better of its own accord.

Patrick Minford

## A dangerous and dishonest game

364 blasts at Major's Government

University economists join in rejecting Thatcher monetarism

Economists give low marks to Government

BRITAIN'S RECESSION

Stuck in slump?

Last week a group of prominent economists published an attack on the Government's strategy. In this article a leading monetarist argues that the critics are wrong

or even greater within the ranks of "monetarists" than between them and "Keynesians". But the economists who have developed this general line of thinking include as many Keynesians as monetarists. Indeed, the mechanism is named after a Keynesian, A. W. Phillips, who taught at the London School of Economics in the fifties.

Yet part (A) of the statement by the 364, on which the other parts are essentially based, explicitly rejects this mechanism in stating that "deflationary demand" will not "bring inflation permanently under control" and thereby induce "an automatic recovery in output and employment". For, of course, that is precisely what the same mechanism asserts when the process of deficit and money creation is put into reverse, as the present Government is doing.

Charity dictates that we interpret this rejection by 364 economists as an

unintentional lapse; otherwise it would make nonsense of their professional work.

To carry out this reversal of the inflationary process, to break the inflationary psychology, political courage and determination of a high order are necessary because of the short-term pressures that are generated—the strong vested interests on the expenditure side, the unpopularity of higher taxes, the temporary misery of the initial recession. At a certain point in the process the siren voices murmuring easy options can become irresistible; the minds of Ministers, untrained in economics, can hardly be blamed for being easily seduced. But hard-headed professionals require our most severe censure if they back such nonsense.

One such suggestion is that instead of reducing inflation we should stabilize it at its existing level and "live with it". Yet recent studies have

come up with very large costs for this option (e.g. Feldstein in 1975 for the United States, C. W. Hilliard and myself in 1978 for the United Kingdom), costs which appear to be far higher than any transitional loss of output that could be involved in eliminating inflation.

The more popular easy options are reflation to increase output, with incomes policy to prevent inflation, a view usually backed by the glib assertion that the economy suffers from widespread "market failure". This is the route both of some clever general equilibrium theorists and of others who are utterly ignorant of modern macroeconomics. But a convincing theoretical account of an economy which would respond as hoped to these policies has yet to be constructed.

The evidence is brutal. Incomes policies have broken down repeatedly since 1960, leaving no trace on the inflation rate. Reflation has been followed by inflation and output has continued to rise slowly, with the massive extra demand (e.g. real disposal incomes rose by more than 7 per cent per annum from 1977 to 1979) going into imports.

The effects of counter-inflationary policies have been superimposed on the adjustment to North Sea oil and a world recession of broadly the severity of 1974-75. The strains on particular companies and industries in the international sector have been intense. But there is no evidence that those with sound long-term prospects are going to the wall. Instead, we have seen rationalization, the reduction of overmanning and a sharp reduction in wage settlements. Indeed, the stock market is now increasing the capitalization of even the hardest hit sectors.

To the short run, this process worsens unemployment. But, in the long run, unemployment by general agreement can only be eliminated by this and other improvements in competitiveness. Bitter experience has confirmed what monetary theory predicts—that devaluation and incomes policies are incapable of raising competitiveness for more than a brief period. It is likely, however, that union power, high labour taxes and social security benefits and a heavily controlled housing market help to create serious unemployment and lower competitiveness.

Economic analysis can help to identify solutions. But the economist who downs tools to sign petitions for apparently political ends is playing a dangerous and dishonest game, even with 363 others.

The author is Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Liverpool.

## German newspapers try to break the TV monopoly

The fight is on to introduce a full-blooded system of commercial television in West Germany, where at present BBC-style public corporations have a broadcasting monopoly.

At the end of February the German newspaper publishers' association agreed to join a new European commercial station, to be based in Luxembourg, which plans to start transmitting programmes via its own satellite system in the middle of 1985. Within a few weeks the association announced that the required capital had been promised.

The prospects of acquiring a licence to print money are attractive in Germany, too.

The new company is being formed by the private Luxembourg radio and television concern, Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Télédiffusion (CLT), better known as RTL, Radio Télé Luxembourg. Mr Gustave Grass, RTL's general director, offered the German newspaper publishers a 20 per cent stake and the separately organized magazine proprietors a 10 per cent share in three satellite television channels—one for France and South Belgium, another for The Netherlands and North Belgium and the third for West Germany. Germany's 30 per cent share is costing DM120m (about £25m).

Since 1929 RTL has had the right to use, or to rent out, all the channels and frequencies allocated to Luxembourg by international agreements. It does not charge fees, but its cable network flourishes nonetheless.

In 1979 it had a turnover of about DM370m and made a profit of DM57m (£12.1m). It runs five radio programmes for France and Belgium, The Netherlands, Britain, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, as well as a television programme that can be seen not only in Luxembourg but also in northern France and a large part of Belgium. Overall, RTL caters for 25 million regular listeners and viewers.

But recently the shareholders, most of whom are French or Belgian, have not been spoiled by large dividends. In 1979 a total of DM1.36m (about £280,000) was distributed. Clearly, RTL has been saving up for its ambitious satellite TV project. The total capital requirements of the new company are put at DM400m.

The technology of satellite television has made enormous strides in recent years. Under existing arrangements some 5,000 transmitters are needed to supply West German households with television. A single satellite, however, can beam television not only to the whole of West Germany, but to an area from the Atlantic to Berlin and from the Alps to southern Sweden. Moreover, the costs are much lower than for conventional transmission—some experts say only a tenth. A special aerial is required to receive satellite television, though, and it is expected that this will cost about DM1,000 (£212).

The newspaper publishers are confident that in the longer term this cost, which will undoubtedly be a deterrent to many people, can be avoided. It is expected that despite the objections of the Federal Government, West Germany will one day have a full cable network for television transmissions. In that event, a single large aerial would enable a satellite to receive television. This possibility has made the offer from RTL all the more tempting.

Satellite television, already well established in the United States, would be a novelty in Europe. But it is not only RTL which is busily preparing to introduce it here. A company known as Telstar AG has been formed with British participation in Switzerland with the aim of transmitting satellite programmes in German, French and Italian beginning in 1983 or 1984. There is also a German-German agreement to launch a television satellite at the end of 1983. This would enable one of Germany's main networks—Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen—to open a new channel.

What is in the RTL deal for the German newspaper and magazine publishers? It has been agreed that RTL satellite programmes for Germany should limit their advertising time to a single 20-minute period each day. This is in line with the present dosage of advertising administered by each of the two main channels in Germany. It sounds modest; there is no advertising on German television after 8 pm—but it is very lucrative. Advertising revenue accounts for half the income of the Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen.

For years the newspaper proprietors, faced with constantly rising costs, which have led to newspaper closures and an undesirable degree of concentration have been bemoaning the loss of advertising to the radio and television corporations.

The prospect of private television revenue seems to have opened a new chapter in the history of the German media. The prospect of a company outside the country at that—has caused a minor sensation. "Attack from space", "Luddites v Luxembourg" and "Big row in the skies" were some of the headlines which followed the publishers' announcement.

The plan is being heavily contested by the Social Democratic party, the senior partner in the Federal Government, and is heartily disliked by the Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt. The Chancellor is already dismayed by the amount of time the average German citizen spends in front of the television set and once caused a stir by suggesting that people should refrain from viewing at least one day a week. Now he sees a danger of a tasteless free-for-all and would certainly not welcome a television channel over which the establishment had no control.

The newspaper proprietors argue that Germany is obliged by international agreement to permit the free flow of information across frontiers and

that to reject this principle would be playing the Soviet Union's game. The Chancellor has hinted, however, that the realization of the Luxembourg scheme will take longer than either the publishers or RTL think.

It is pointed out in Bonn that it is up to the Federal Government to grant the frequencies for radio and television. But it is difficult to see how in the long run the tide can be stemmed. A year ago the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* prophesied that one day Germany would have a choice of 60 television programmes. It looks as if that day has come a step closer.

James Hutchinson

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## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## Oils and electricals slump amid profit taking

The first day of the new financial year and further worries over Poland resulted in heavy profit-taking as the second leg of the account began on a dull note.

Among the sectors badly hit were oils and electricals as prices fell sharply. But take-over news and the higher oil prices ensured investors of one or two bright spots.

After contending with a deluge of small sellers early on, sentiment was further hit by the emergency summit meeting in Prague and the fall in the value of sterling. Reports suggesting that the worst of the recession was now over appeared to be disregarded, and most dealers said the higher oil prices were unlikely to break through its record high this week, as was earlier predicted.

Most of the selling had been absorbed by mid-morning but the index, down 7.3 by 11 am, recovered slightly to 5.2 down an hour later. But news of a sharp fall on Wall Street in the opening hours of business saw the index close 6.1 down at 533.5.

Government securities were in a subdued mood awaiting tomorrow's banking figures, which many hope might be the prelude to another cut in minimum lending rate within the next couple of weeks. But with sterling weak and the wholesale price index at the upper end of expectations, prices drifted gently in thin trade. In longer falls of between 1% and 2% were recorded while at the shorter end losses extended to 4%.

Little demand was again reported for the new issue Treasury 11% per cent 1985, which slipped 1/16 to 515.

Jobbers in leading industrial shares were a little more cheerful as they were able to mop up more

stock and alleviate the tight conditions. ICI fell 2p to 256p, Beecham 3p to 179p, Glaxo 6p to 312p, Unilever 5p to 508p, Fisons 5p to 153p, GKN 1p to 148p, Pilkington Bros 3p to 303p and British Aerospace 2p to 204p. Even Hawker Siddeley, stronger recently ahead of figures this month, shed 6p to 318p but a bright feature was seen in Bowater, which closed 1p higher at 243p.

Shares of Atlantic Resources made their debut on the USM market at 260p and rose to 300p before closing at 295p.

Acquisition news saw shares of Edinburgh & General Insurance temporarily suspended at 25p.

News of bid talks saw shares of Le Vallonnet suspended at 43p at the company's request. But shares of Suter Electrical made a welcome return to the market in ex rights form with the ordinary opening at 60p and the new at 19p. The shares were suspended in January at 64p. Also making a return to the trading floor was London & European, which returned from suspension at 45p after receiving bid terms from Bardsey, 3p higher at 31p.

Elsewhere on the bid front, shares of Rothmans International "B" jumped 5p to 75p in hectic trade still in response to news that the group was in

talks with RJ Reynolds of the United States. Terms for the agreed bid clipped 3p from Provincial Laundries at 54p with the prospective buyer, Hawley Leisure, also 6p lower at 57p. But Bond St Fabrics rose 4p to 43p after renewed terms from Anchinleck and Anglo Metro-politan leapt 12p to 118p after announcing it was in bid talks with First Pennsylvania Mortgage Trust.

Carpet International is yet another group whose shares are buoyed up by recovery hopes and bid possibilities. They rose 1p to a 1981 peak of 221p yesterday. Last year the group lost 66.4m before tax and missed the dividend, but business abroad should recover well this year. Net asset value is nearly 80 per cent above the share price.

Ahead of a statement on the latest developments in its bid for British Sugar, unchanged at 301p, S & W Berford retreated 5p to 214p while fading bid hopes clipped 6p from Reaction Smith "A" at 142p.

Disappointing trading news clipped 5p from Reed Executive at 39p with Highland Distillers losing 1p to 96p while in builders Bryant Holdings eased 2p to 85p and Taylor Woodrow,

reporting on Thursday, Standard & Chartered marked time at 657p.

Oils encountered heavy selling with prices closing at the bottom after the sharp set-back on Wall Street. BP tumbled 10p to 370p, Shell 16p to 356p, Ultramar 5p to 473p, Lasso 21p to 539p, Tricentrol 12p to 270p and Burmah 3p to 151p. At the cheaper end, Keeley Exploration fell 17p to 278p, KCA International 2p to 202p and Mariner 10p to 130p. Fears that Exxon might be having second thoughts about the Rumble share project sent Southern Pacific Petroleum plummeting 25p to 63p and Central Pacific Mining 5p to 166p.

Gold shares staged a technical rally helped by the higher bullion price and weak sterling. In spite of the closure of the Cape West Driefontein jumped 3p to 1381, FS Geduld 1 1/2p to 224, Western Deep 1 1/2p to 224 and Buffelsfontein 2 1/2p to 222.

At the other end, Western Mining climbed 10p to 319p, Rustenburg 10p to 242p, Sen-tinel 1p to 37p and Kinross 22p to 632p.

Equity turnover for April 3 was £206.451m (bargains 34,312). Active stocks, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were 381, British Aerospace, ICI, GEC, Lasso, BP, Burmah and Anglo Gold.

Traditional options: Dealers reported increased activity because of the new account. Calls were made in Rothmans Int at 73p, in Delta at 6p and British Kent 1p to 37p and Kinross 22p to 632p.

Traded options: A total of 1,007 contracts were made. Lasso attracted 133, RAL 12, and Land Securities 44 and GEC 9.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Alva Int. Trust (F)	—	0.17(0.15)*	11.04(9.36)	5.6(—)	29/5	10.5(9.1)
Blunnie Tea (F)	—	0.44(0.39)	11.9(15.4)	—	—	—
Bryant (I)	46(44)	3.72(3.15)	5.6(5.9)	0.85(0.75)	29/5	—(5.0)
Greencoat (I)	0.92(0.83)	0.05(0.02)	—	nil(0.1)	—	—
Highland Dist (I)	44.8(38.4)	2.46(1.0)	—	0.8(0.8)	8/5	2.6(2.6)
M. Mole (F)	1.5(1.75)	0.25(0.18)	5.88(6.51)*	—	—	—
Reed Executive (F)	35.53(31.97)	0.25(0.16)	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. \* Net. † Loss.

## Bryant Holdings lifts payout as profits rise

By Margaret Pagan  
West Midlands housebuilder and property developer Bryant Holdings increased interim profits against a background of high interest rates and tight mortgage money.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to November 30 rose to £37.5m from £35.5m last time. Sales advanced to £46m from £44m. The interim gross dividend is lifted 13 per cent to 12.1p.

With the results yesterday came a forecast for "creditable" full-year profits from the chairman, Mr Alan Bryant. Private house building enjoyed a good half year despite the higher interest rates and shortage of mortgage money. And future trading looked better, he said, with the building societies' success in taking deposits and a cut in interest rates. The company expects to make more than £7m for the year to May 31 against £6.5m last year.

Some 900 units were built during the period and estimates

are for 1,700 in the full year—about the same as in 1979. Bryant's policy of expanding into the more prosperous southern and Thames valley regions has continued. These sales accounted for 40 per cent of total private home turnover.

Profit margins are not yet as high as expected from the south since the group started afresh with its land bank and acquired property at higher prices.

In the Midlands Bryant still builds from its land bank. Private homes, selling from £25,000 to £100,000, are the main profit earner compared to building civil engineering, and industrial and commercial developments.

Building and civil engineering work was maintained over the period but the group aims to reduce these activities by about a half. Although the property market was weak there has been a steady demand for its industrial and commercial developments.

## Fluor launches offer

Fluor, the giant American construction group, has launched its cash tender offer for St Joe Minerals, the mining company. St Joe's directors have announced that they will accept the bid, worth \$60 a share.

St Joe was the object last month of a \$2,000m bid by Sea-

gram, the Canadian drinks group. St Joe's board has fiercely resisted the takeover. Under the terms of the agreed merger Fluor will make a tender offer to St Joe shareholders of 560 a share for the first 20.4m shares. Any shares not bought by tender will automatically be converted into 1.2 shares of Fluor common stock.

## New attempt at agreement on cocoa

By Michael Press  
Commodities Correspondent

Delegates from cocoa producing and consuming countries are meeting again in London this week to try to resolve the future of the International Cocoa Organisation and bring the proposed international cocoa agreement into operation.

Since the previous agreement expired in March, 1980, the ICCO's legal status has been tenuous. It has been drawing from reserves to finance daily operations, but the cash is running low.

But today's consumer members of the ICCO agreed no approach should be made to the Ivory Coast for setting up a group to study the price range agreed for the new international agreement.

While there has been a possibility of a new agreement, delegates have voted against liquidating the ICCO. Last month they voted not to use money from the \$235m buffer stock fund. But now they face the danger of funds being exhausted by the end of May.

Yesterday Mr Kwesi Bakman, the ICCO's executive director, gave delegates a paper commenting on proposals by the Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa exporter, that a committee be set up to study the new agreement's price provisions.

## Lasso chairman hits at supplementary levy

By Our Financial Staff

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposals to introduce a supplementary petroleum duty have come under fire from the chairman of London & Scottish Marine Oil, Mr Geoffrey Searle. He said the supplementary duty would be detrimental to profits and cash flow and would hinder development. A more stable system of oil taxation should be devised, he says.

In his annual statement he noted that with four government levies on the United Kingdom oil industry—royalty, corporation tax, FRT and SPD—the combined rate would be more than 90 per cent on the marginal barrel of crude oil from a substantial field.

"Not only does an increase in taxation reduce internally generated funds which would otherwise be used for expansion," he said, "but uncertainty as to the rules and the effects of taxation is a major factor to discourage enterprise and investment, particularly in an industry with such a long period before any return on capital is made."

He stressed that rules "more appropriate to oil industry operations and to economics should be devised and fiscal requirements should be capable of being met by changes in the rate of tax rather than by the imposition of new taxes and material alterations to the existing ones."



Mr Geoffrey Searle, chairman of London & Scottish Marine Oil.

He also said that the integration of Lasso and OEH had taken place smoothly and that the group was actively seeking suitable exploration and production opportunities in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Production from the North Sea reserves, in South Minster Block and Andrew, should start in the mid eighties, Mr Searle said he hoped that higher natural gas prices would be offered to justify development of the gas discoveries.

## Business appointments

## Scotland bank post for Mr C M Winter

Mr Charles M. Winter has been deputy managing director of The Royal Bank of Scotland.

Mr Graeme S. Kidd has been the board of Christian & Mielens.

Mr K. K. Schwab is the new deputy managing director of Laurence, Scott & Electromotors.

Mr D. A. G. Monk is now on the board of Linford Holdings.

Mr A. M. Edis has joined the board of Supra Group.

Mr John Worrell has been elected president of the Barrow Shareholders Action Group.

Mr Bill Cooper has joined the partnership of D. J. Freeman & Company, solicitors.

Mr Nigel H. McLean has been made chief executive of Newman Industries.

Mr Douglas B. Kemp, managing director of W. S. Cowell, the printing and publishing division of Crampin Holdings, and Mr Hugh Stevenson, financial director of the group's transport division, have joined the Crampin team.

Dr John Ginnar is joining the partnership of Quiller Hinton Goodson & Company.

Mr Young Pung Hwa has been signed as a director of Sine Darby Berhad following secondment to a Singapore Government Corporation.

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## Reed Executive passes final after second-half loss

By Margaret Pagan

One of the country's largest employment agencies, Reed Executive, yesterday reported a second-half loss, its first ever deficit, as forecast at the interim stage.

The final dividend has been passed, giving a total payment of 2.14p gross. The total last year was 6.5p gross. The shares fell back 5p to 39p.

After first-half pretax profits of £503,000, profits for the year to December 27 are £249,000 against £316m in 1979. Turnover, however, advanced to £355m from £315m.

Mr Alec Reed, chairman, recorded again this year but that the group should return to profitability in 1982.

Demand for permanent staff fell by 70 per cent at the end of last year and continues to slump. Temporary staff positions, always the first to go, were down last April. Small signs of recovery have been seen in demand for temporary staff in the past eight weeks.

"We think this is enough to show that employers are beginning to recruit again but it will be a long while before normal staff are wanted," he said. "It is largely a matter of confidence."

The group's 150 branches—mainly in the South-east—have not seen an equivalent number of extra people reg-

istering for employment because there is hesitancy in changing work.

Once the economy emerges from the recession the group feels it will be ready to recover lost ground. It is for this reason that cuts have been kept to a minimum and the network of branches left intact. But 5 per cent of the workforce have lost their jobs, leaving 700 employees. Costs are included in the £23,000 extraordinary item.

All employees have accepted a six month pay freeze from April to September. "Because of the redundancies and the pay freeze we thought it only equitable to omit the final dividend," Mr Reed said.

The group's 30 Medicare drugstores—started with the aim of building a business less vulnerable to cyclical trading—have shown progress over the year. Operating losses improved from 8 per cent of turnover in 1979 to 4 per cent in 1980.

The group expects the stores to show some profits this year, and to contribute more significantly in 1982. Seven branches were opened in 1979, two last year and another is due to be completed this year.

A recent property revaluation has shown a surplus of £12m over net book values in addition to shareholders' funds of £5.14m. Medicare assets represent 60 per cent of shareholders' funds.

## Briefly

Western Scientific Instruments has acquired BOC aviation business from Medisat Corporation, a subsidiary of BOC International.

Consideration involved in transaction is not material in relation to net assets of BOC or Western Scientific.

Allied International Designers Group has acquired 90 per cent of issued share capital of Dalton Viewing and Whinney for £30,500. Dalton designs special programmes for micro chips and designs and develops microprocessor-based products for improving performance in both industrial equipment and consumer goods.

Marger cleared in director's recommendation of director general of fair trading the Secretary of State for Trade has decided not to refer to the House of Industrial Investments and Central Manufacturing and Trading Group to the Monopolies Commission.

Blunnie Tea Turnover for 1980 £1.35m (£1.33m). Pretax profit £445,500 (£399,000). Earnings per share, net basis (15.4p), nil basis 14.4p (18.4p). Dividend 1.4p (1.4p).

Anglo-International Investment Trust: Net asset value of dividend share at March 31 was about 35.5p, and about 276p for the asset shares.

Greencoat Properties: Group turnover for 6 months to December 31, 1980 £20.2m (£20.0m). Pretax loss £50,000 (£2,000). No dividend (same).

Alva Investment Trust: Gross income for year to February 28 is £285,500 (£239,000). Net revenue £177,000 (£150,000) after tax. Earnings per share 11.0p (9.36p). Net asset value 22p (20p). Dividend 1.4p (1.4p).

M. Mole & Sons: Turnover for 1980 £1.35m (£1.33m). Pretax profit £445,500 (£399,000). Earnings per share, net basis (15.4p), nil basis 14.4p (18.4p). Dividend 1.4p (1.4p).

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## Edinburgh General shares suspended

The shares of Edinburgh General Insurance Service suspended yesterday at the company's request, as that negotiations are advanced stage for the acquisition of a private motor insurance broker company nationally through retail.

The successful completion of the acquisition would be a major expansion of the insurance broker's business and is expected to be on a sound basis for future.

Needlers' develop to hold profits do

At Needlers, Mr Needler, chairman, said development plans are erasing reducing the profitability in the share but the level of turnover showing that we are in trade and consumer a of our principal branches concludes that the pose the company in the Kingdom is therefore y indeed.

Neil & Spencer optimistic

Mr Stephen Proctor, at Neil & Spencer Hold the group's annual meet "Trading conditions are extremely difficult although signs that the last year's deterioration may have overcome the loss of revenues caused by the of sterling are prog taking effect, and he expects for the first in current year to show recovery from those of the half of 1980.

Eastern Produce makes bid for Ru

Eastern Produce (E) is making a 58p-a-share the 52 per cent of Ru- nor already own. East acquired a further 11 cent of Ru, the 1 tobacco company, while its total holding, with Lawrie Plantation 1 with whom Eastern ac- cures, already owns 4.9 so a bid has been t under Rule 34 of the Code.

Birmingham Mini acquisition

Birmingham Mini- quired Turner and Simp Birmingham metal- makers and silver- £200,000 paid in cash.

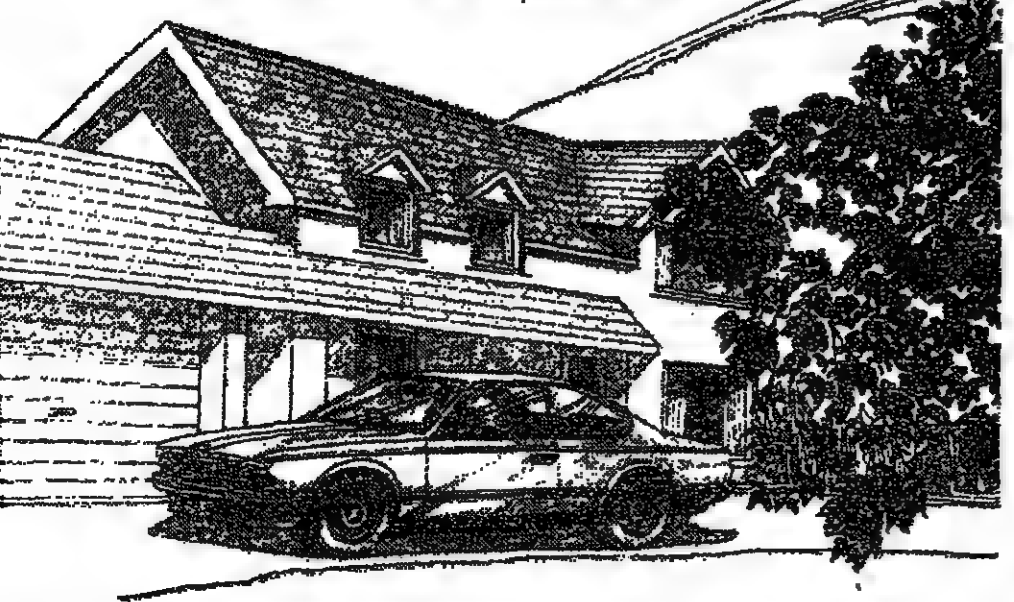
Bank Ba Rates

AEBN Bank ..... Barclays ..... BCCI ..... Consolidated Crds C. Hoare & Co. Lloyds Bank .... Midland Bank .... Nat Westminster .... TSB ..... Williams and Glyn's

\* 7 day deposit on sum 10,000 and under 100,000 10% p.a.

## OUTLOOK BRIGHT AT BRYANT HOLDINGS

Interim Report shows last year's creditable results are well sustained into 1981



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## The Over-the-Counter Market

High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Over	%
75	39	Airsprung Group	71xd	+1	6.7	9.4
50	21	Armitage & Rhodes	49	-1	1.4	2.9
192	92	Bardon Hill	190	-	9.7	5.1
98	88	Deborah Services	98	-	5.5	5.6
126	88	Frank Horsell	104	-1	6.4	6.2
110	35	Frederick Parker	50	-	1.7	3.4
110	70	George Blair	70	-	3.1	4.4
110	59	Jackson Group	107	-	6.9	6.4
124	103	James Burroughs	118	-	7.9	6.7
334	244	Robert Jenkins	320	-	31.3	9.8
55	50	Scruttons "A"	51	-	5.3	10.4
224	210	Torday Limited	210	-2	15.1	7.2
23	8	Twinkl Ord	101	-	-	-
90	69	Twinkl 15% ULS	72	-	15.0	20.3
55	35	Uniflow Holdings	45	-1	3.0	6.6
103	81	Walter Alexander	100	-	5.7	5.7
263	181	W. S. Yeates	258	-2	13.1	5.1









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Tuesday, 7 April at 11 a.m. and  
Thursday, 9 April at 11 a.m.  
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ART. Catalogue £5.50.

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IMPORTANT ENGLISH FURNITURE AND OBJECTS  
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IMPORTANT OLD MASTER PICTURES. Catalogue £7.

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RUSSIAN AND GREEK ICONS. Catalogue £2.30.

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Thursday, 9 April at 10 a.m., 2.30 p.m. and 4 p.m.  
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Wednesday 8th April at 10 am  
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Wednesday 8th April at 11 am  
IMPORTANT OLD MASTER PAINTINGS  
Cat. (113 illus.) £8

Wednesday 8th April at 2.30 pm  
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Cat. (102 illus.) £7.50

Thursday 9th April at 10.30 am  
MIDDLE, RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE  
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Thursday 9th April at 2.30 pm  
IMPORTANT OLD MASTER DRAWINGS FROM  
THE COLLECTION OF TOBIAS CHRIST  
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Thursday 9th April immediately following the sale of  
Drawings from the Tobias Christ Collection  
FINE OLD MASTER DRAWINGS  
Cat. (52 illus.) £6.50

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ORIENTAL RUGS AND CARPETS  
and at 11 am  
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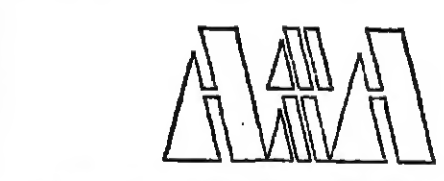
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Tuesday, 7 April, 11 a.m.  
FURNITURE, CARPETS AND WORKS OF ART

Tuesday, 7 April, 1.30 p.m.  
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Wednesday, 8 April, 11 a.m.  
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Wednesday, 8 April, 12 noon  
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Thursday, 9 April, 1.30 p.m.  
BOOKS, MAPS AND ATLASES

Friday, 10 April, 11 a.m.  
SILVER AND PLATE  
Illustrated Catalogue 75p by post

Monday, 13 April, 11 a.m.  
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WATERCOLOURS

Monday, 13 April, 2 p.m.  
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